TINKLE PRESENTS

BUTTERFINGERS 2

GOES BONKERS

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Abhijeet Kini

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Butterfingers goes bonkers

Khyrunnisa A.

The first story I ever wrote for Tinkle was titled 'Butterfingers' and was my entry for the Tinkle Original Story Competition. The cricket-based story was inspired by my family's huge craze for cricket (and all sports in general) and the title derived from our general clumsiness; my son and I are particularly known for it! Whoever dropped something was immediately called 'Butterfingers' and the word was often heard in my house. No wonder then that the story was a favourite with my family. And it turned out that it was also a favourite with *Tinkle* because it won the second prize.

Though I went on to write many more stories for *Tinkle*, this particular story held a special place in my heart and I longed to carry the character further. So, when the folks at Tinkle asked me to create a regular character for the magazine, I jumped at the opportunity and said, "There's Butterfingers!" The change I made was in the name... I chose my son's name—Amar—as the real name for Butterfingers. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Abhijeet Kini

It was sometime in late 2006 that I got a call from Luis Fernandes, former editor of *Tinkle*, to come over to the office to discuss a new series he wanted me to try my hand at, which was written by Khyrunnisa A. When I heard the name 'Butterfingers', I immediately had a lot of ideas in my head as to what the character would be like, and when I sat down and heard the story from Luis, I was pretty much spot on—a clumsy, accident-prone boy with a heart of gold, and with a tendency to save the day.

The first story I drew for the Butterfingers series was the Diwali episode. I had just submitted the first story, all inked and pretty, to the team and was happily returning home when I got a frantic call from them, "Kiran is a boy! Not a girl!" I hit my head and thought to myself, "Amar's such a nice guy, I thought he'd have a girlfriend!"

I had drawn Kiran (Amar's best friend) as a girl, so I quickly had to get my art papers back and make major corrections in those panels. Gradually, over the years, we have seen the character as well as the other characters in his universe develop and my personal favourites to draw are the Heebie Jeebies (the boy band) and Prof. Jagmohan, the school principal. Khyrunnisa's ideas are brilliant, and I always look forward to sketching Amar, every time I get a chance.

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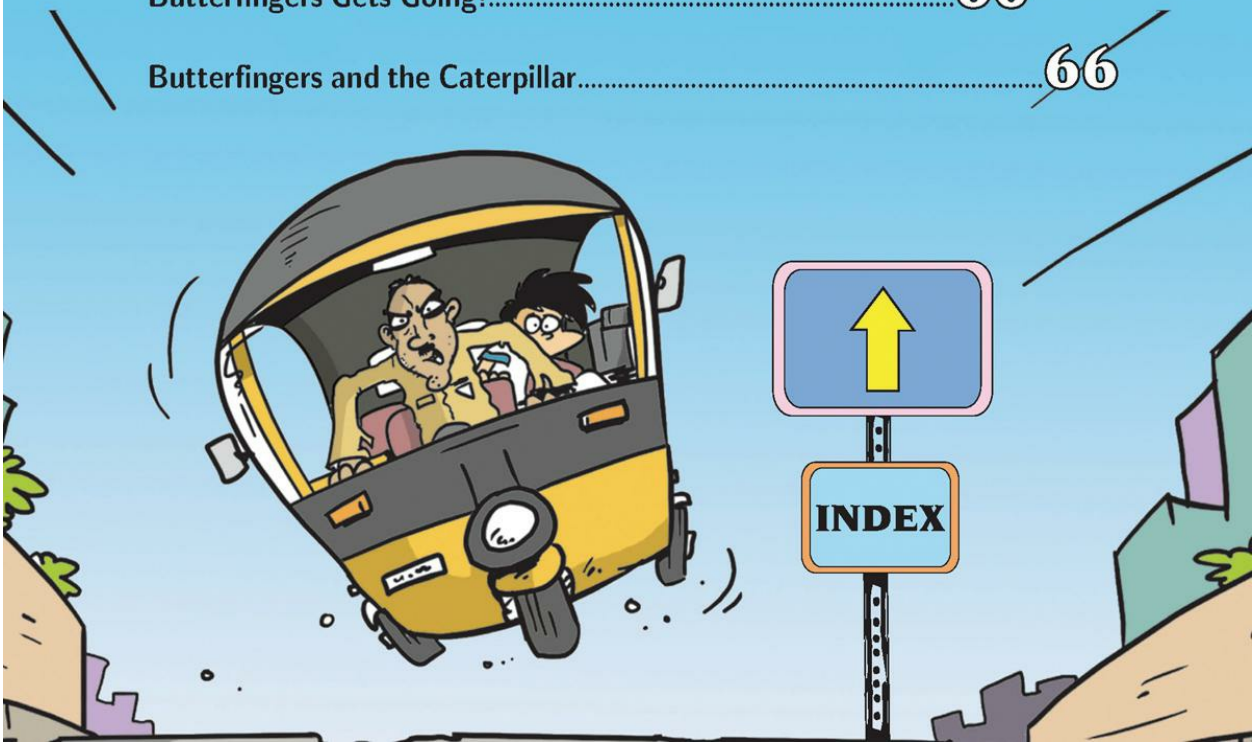
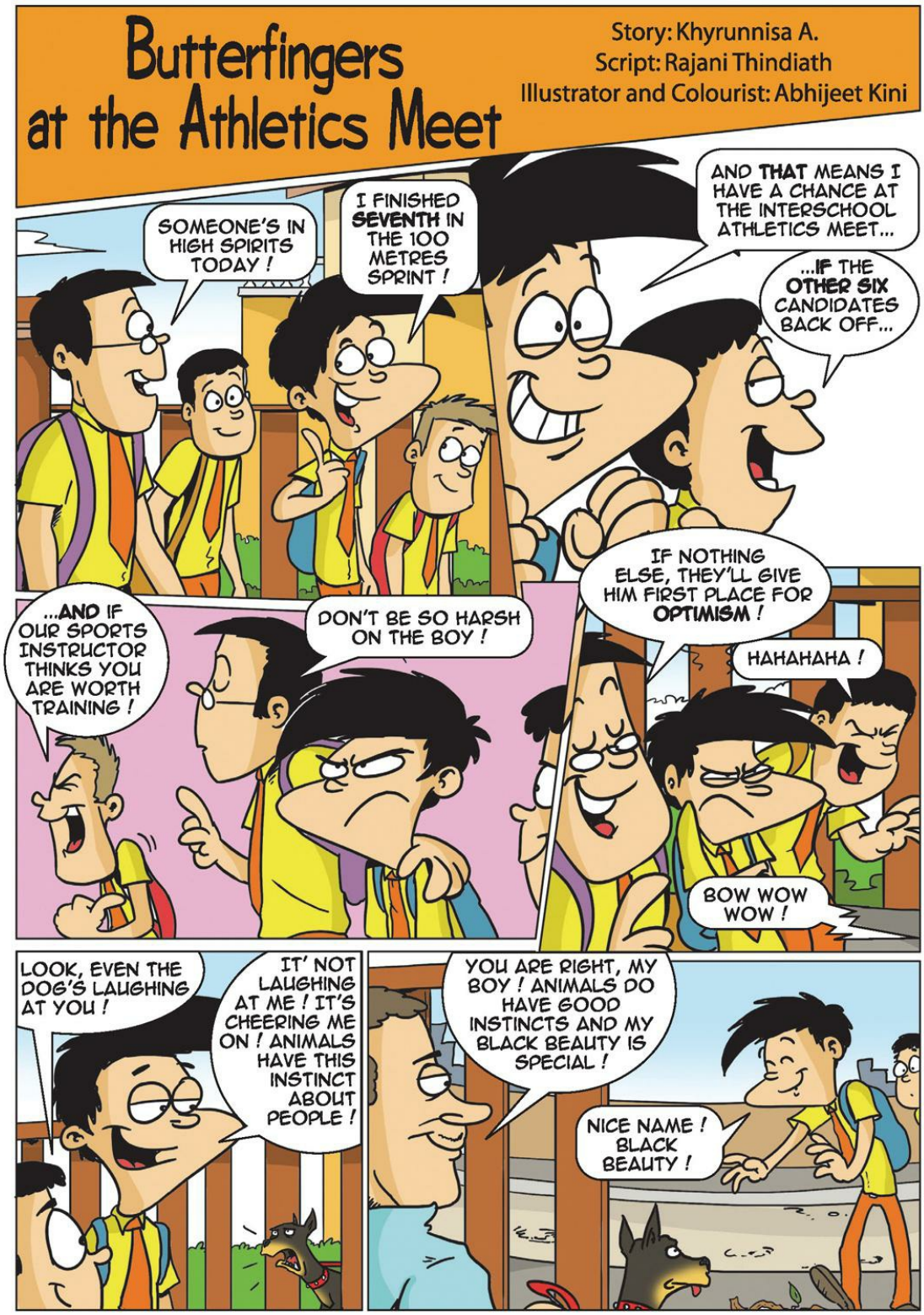


Butterfingers at the Athletics Meet

Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: Rajani Thindiath
Illustrator and Colourist: Abhijeet Kini

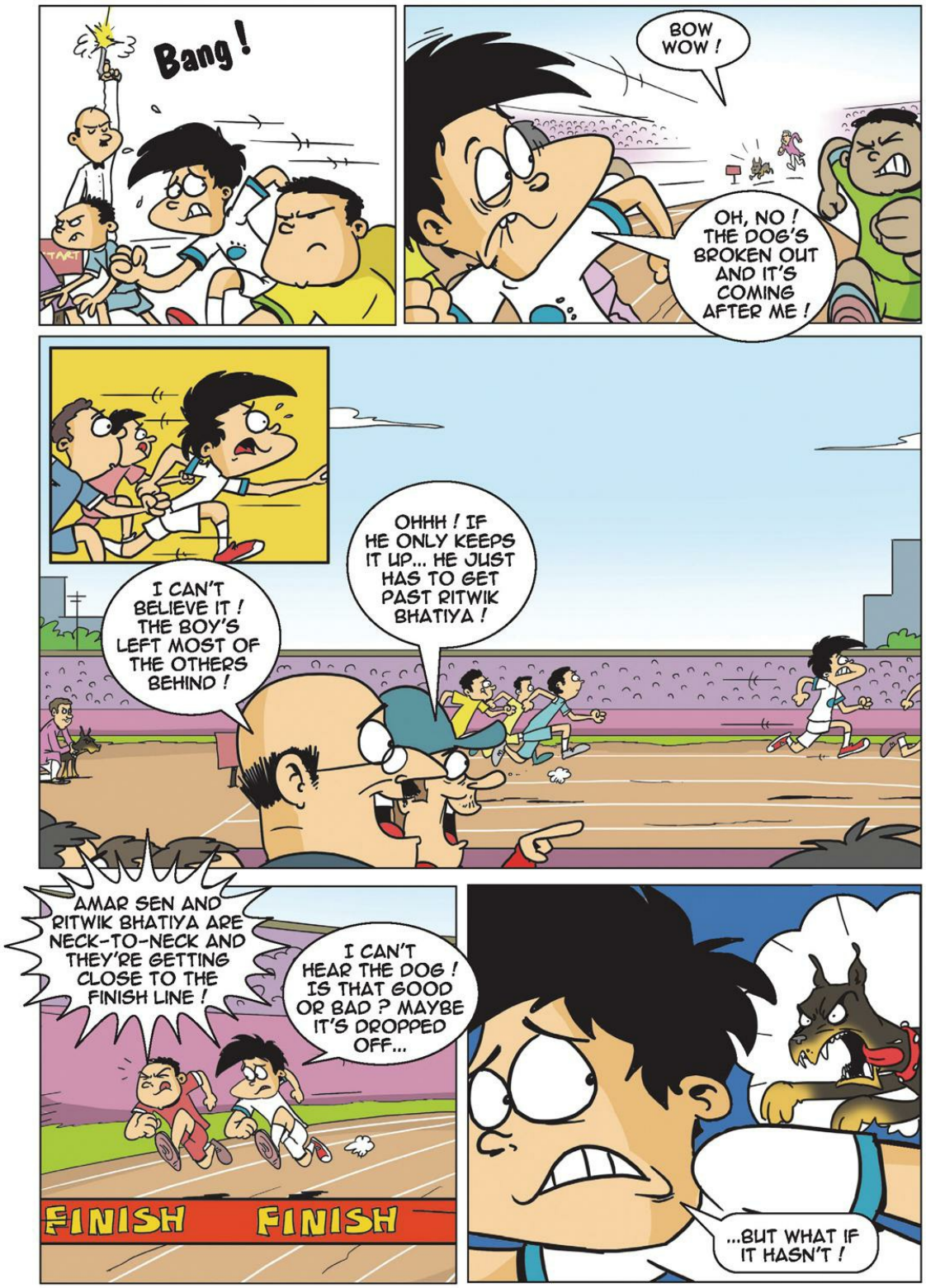


OOOPS !
WATCH IT, BUTTER !
THUP
GRRRRRRR !
S-SORRY !
SILLY BOY !
GRRRR !
YOU ARE RIGHT, BUTTER ! THE DOG MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING **EXTRA** SPECIAL IN YOU TO GET SO WORKED UP !
HEHE ! YOU BET !
ONE EVENING, SOME DAYS LATER –
DAD, I NEED 150 RUPEES !
WHAT FOR ?

I'M COMPETING IN THE INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS MEET ! SO I NEED A SPORTS JERSEY !
WHAT ABOUT THOSE SIX KIDS WHO FINISHED AHEAD OF YOU AT THE TRIALS ?
OH, THEY ALL WENT OUT FOR A TREAT AFTER TRAINING AND ARE NOW DOWN WITH FOOD POISONING !
NOTHING SERIOUS, I HOPE !
NO, MA ! BUT THEY DEFINITELY CAN'T RUN ! THE MEET'S ON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW !
ON THE DAY OF THE SPORTS MEET –
BAD LUCK, KIDDO ! THE CAR'S NOT STARTING AND THE SCOOTER'S GONE FOR REPAIRS ! YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE A RICKSHAW !
OKAY, THEN I'LL RUSH OFF !
UMPH !
ALL THE BEST !
DARN ! NOT A SINGLE RICK !
THERE'S ONE !
STOP ! STOP ! STOP !
SCREEEECH !

TO LAJPATH NAGAR ! HURRY !
THIS ROAD'S VERY BAD !
GET OFF HERE ! I'M NOT GOING ANY FURTHER !
NOTHING'S GOING RIGHT TODAY !
NOW, I'LL HAVE TO RUN THE REST OF THE WAY !
THE NEXT EVENT IS THE 100 METRES RACE !
OH NO ! I'M LATE !
OUCH !

STUPID STONE !!!
THACK!
THUNK !
GRRROWL !
BLACK BEAUTY'S IN A BLACK MOOD !! THANK GOD IT'S LEASHED !
THE RACE'S ABOUT TO BEGIN AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF AMAR !
HE'LL BE ALONG ANY MINUTE, SIR !
AT LEAST I HOPE SO !
THERE HE IS !
START
COME ON, AMAR, HURRY !


Bang!
BOW WOW!
OH, NO! THE DOG'S BROKEN OUT AND IT'S COMING AFTER ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE BOY'S LEFT MOST OF THE OTHERS BEHIND!
OHHH! IF HE ONLY KEEPS IT UP... HE JUST HAS TO GET PAST RITWIK BHATIYA!
AMAR SEN AND RITWIK BHATIYA ARE NECK-TO-NECK AND THEY'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE!
I CAN'T HEAR THE DOG! IS THAT GOOD OR BAD? MAYBE IT'S DROPPED OFF...
FINISH
FINISH
...BUT WHAT IF IT HASN'T!

THE THOUGHT LENT A FRESH BURST OF SPEED TO BUTTER'S FEET, TAKING HIM OVER THE FINISH LINE –
AND AMAR SEN WINS THE RACE !
AMAR ! AMAR ! AMAR !
HUH ?! NO SIGN OF THE DOG !
BRAVO, BUTTER ! NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD DO IT !
I WON THE RACE ?!
YES, AMAR ! AND WE'RE PROUD OF YOU !
GRRRROWL ! BOW-WOW-WOW-WOW !
I WONDER WHY AMAR RAN AWAY ON HEARING MY NEW RINGTONE !
GRRRROWL ! BOW-WOW-WOW-WOW !

Butterfingers goes to the circus!

Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: R. Nalini
Illustrator & Colourist: Abhijeet Kini

SO WHAT ABOUT THE CIRCUS…?
DON'T BE SO HARSH ON HIM, NOW!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
ERIC, DAD'S GIVEN ME MONEY FOR THE CIRCUS! LET'S GO TOMORROW! WE'LL MEET AT YOUR PLACE!
GREAT! SEE YOU, THEN!
NEXT EVENING, AT ERIC'S HOUSE –
HEY… WHY ARE YOU TWO SULKING?
MY PARENTS HAVE GONE OUT AND THEY FORGOT TO GIVE ME MONEY...
…AND MY DAD REFUSED ME MONEY AS PUNISHMENT FOR FAILING IN HISTORY…
IF WE GO FOR THE GALLERY SEATS WE HAVE ENOUGH… LET'S GO, NOW!
SOON –
FOUR… UHH!… GALLERY SEATS…
I OVERHEARD SOMEONE SAYING THE MINISTER AND HIS FAMILY ARE COMING FOR THIS SHOW…
THERE THEY ARE!… SUCH TIGHT SECURITY!
ERR… BUTTER…LOOK WHO'S HERE! THIRD ROW BEHIND THE MINISTER'S FAMILY…
MOM AND DAD!!
SSSHHH!!

WOW! THESE TRAPEZE ARTISTES ARE SO GOOD!
HA! HA! HO! HO!
IT'S NOW TIME FOR THE GREATEST ATTRACTION – THE HUMAN CANNONBALL!
THAT'S MY FAVOURITE ACT… I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED HOW THEY DO IT…
BUTTER, YOUR ICECREAM…!
OOPS!!
WHAT NONSENSE, I SAY! YOU BOYS HAVE CREATED SUCH A MESS HERE… NOISE, POPCORN, ICECREAM…
WE NOW REQUEST A DARING VOLUNTEER TO COME FORWARD FOR THE HUMAN CANNONBALL ACT!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!…
SORRY, SIR. I...I...

AH, A BRAVE VOLUNTEER HAS STOOD UP!
ULP! ME?
GO, AMAR!
THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN... HA! HA!
AMAR!
LISTEN CAREFULLY! THERE'S A SPRING INSIDE THE CANNON THAT'LL LAUNCH YOU... THE EXPLOSION AND FIREWORKS ARE JUST FOR EFFECT.
AND NOW FOR THE DAREDEVIL ACT...
THIS IS SO UNCOMFORTABLE... HMPH!... OH NO, THE CANNON IS MOVING...

JUST THEN –
HEY…THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE OUT...
WELL… I HOPE BUTTER'S ALL RIGHT…
YAAAIIIIEEEE...
BOOM!!
MAAA...!
OH,NO! I CRASHED INTO THESE TWO GUYS AND KNOCKED THEM OUT!

THE POLICE!! AMAR'S IN TROUBLE AGAIN!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU MUST THANK THIS BRAVE BOY, SIR!
ME?!
HE KNOCKED OUT TWO MEN WHO PUT OFF THE LIGHTS AND WERE TRYING TO KIDNAP YOUR DAUGHTER!
THANK YOU, YOUNG MAN! YOU SURE DESERVE SOME REWARD!
YES. FROM OUR SIDE, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS GET FREE TICKETS FOR TOMORROW'S SHOW TOO. AND FRONT SEATS!!
YOOHOO!
YOUR CLUMSINESS HAS TRIUMPHED AGAIN, AMAR!
BUTTERFINGERS, YOU MEAN?
ICECREAM FINGERS WOULD BE A BETTER NAME!

Check Your B.Q. (Butter Quotient)

DO YOUR LIMBS OBEY YOUR EVERY COMMAND? DO THEY WORK IN PERFECT COORDINATION AND KEEP YOU AWAY FROM CLUMSY DISASTERS? OR, LIKE ME, ARE YOU DISASTER-PRONE AND STAYING UPRIGHT IS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE? TAKE THIS POP QUIZ AND FIND OUT... HOW BUTTERFINGERED ARE YOU?

1. You're walking on a crowded street. You…

a. walk into a pole

b. walk into people coming from the opposite direction

c. weave your way smoothly like a knife through butter (ouch!)

2. You're carrying a bag full of light bulbs to the school's science lab. When you reach school, chances are…

a. all those bulbs will be in smithereens without having ever seen the light of day

b. a few bulbs will be broken, as sacrifice in the name of science, of course

c. you will have bagged the title as the 'official safekeeper of the apparatus'

3. Guests come a-visiting and you're asked to carry a tray full of goodies to serve them. You find…

a. most of the goodies are in the air and down on the ground before you know it

b. some of the goodies have suddenly decided to grace the good clothes of the guests

c. all of the goodies make it into the guests' mouths and you are rewarded by the sounds of noisy chewing

4. You're playing badminton with a friend. Most of the time…

a. your racquet is flying in the air instead of the shuttle

b. your shots are wayyyy off mark

c. your shuttle and racquet love each other so much, they match each other's movements perfectly

5. For you, tall trees are…

a. meant to be conserved… and admired from the safety of the ground

b. meant to hit your head against when you pass too close to a low-hanging branch

c. made to climb and pluck yummy fruits from

6. When you offer to carry a bag for your mom, she…

a. declines politely and hangs on tightly until you let go

b. agrees to let you carry it but shadows you all the way home with baseball gloves on

c. thanks you for being so considerate and hands over the bag to you a little too willingly

7. Your clothes…

a. probably have marks left by dropped food that you pretend are part of the garment's design

b. are not in that bad a state really. You just need to stop wearing white.

c. look fresher than you do by the end of a day

Text: Dolly Pahlajani Layout: Jitendra Patil

If most of your answers were Cs: You, my dear, have got to work on your clumsiness! Or you can live with your boring, clean, perfectly balanced self. (No, I'm not jealous.)

If most of your answers were Bs: Well, you're on your way to straight As if you let go of your remaining hold on non-clumsiness. In short, you're getting the hang of it. I'm proud of you!

If most of your answers were As: Ahhh. You're a person after my own heart... or in this case, limbs. Like me, you are clumsy, uncoordinated and probably cause a lot of accidents where there could have been smooth sailing. Speaking of sailing, don't do it!

In case of mixes:

As and Cs: Stop it! You're splitting your mind into halves and confusing it about what it should really be! Let go and revel in your A-side!

Bs and Cs: Bah. Borderline sane and coordinated. You can never be 'Sen' and uncoordinated.

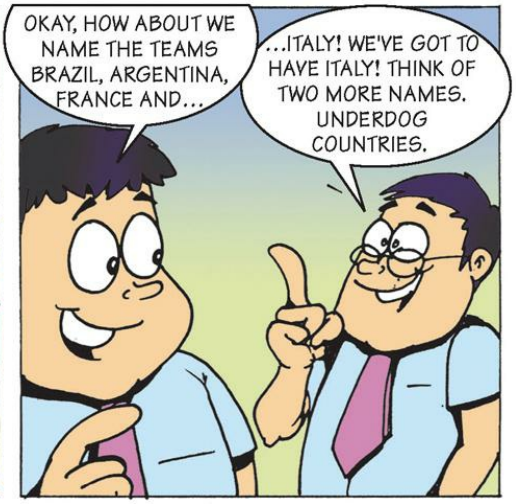
As and Bs: Well-well, look at what we have here! Great scores! Keep going until you've upgraded to A. And then we'll be like two peas in a pod!

BUTTERFINGERS AND FOOTBALL FEVER

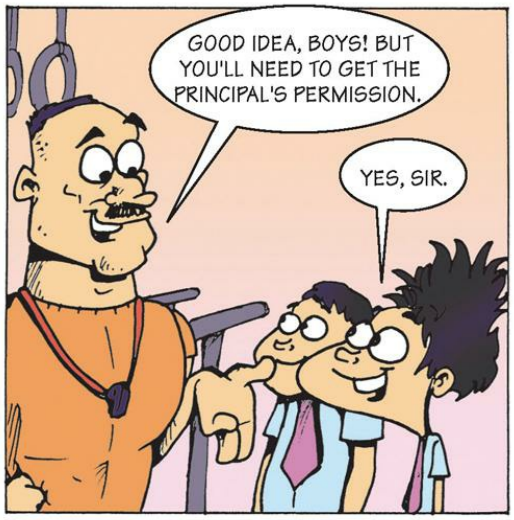
Story: Khyrunnisa A. Script: Janaki Viswanathan Illustrations: Abhijeet Kini

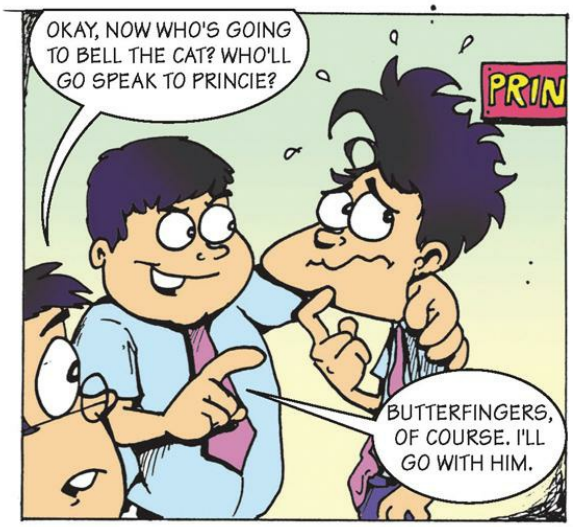
IT'S OFFICIAL. BUTTERFINGERS HAS LOST HIS MIND.
NO, NO! THINK ABOUT IT! WE COULD HOLD THE MATCHES IN OUR NEWLY ACQUIRED PLAYGROUND.
YEAH! REMEMBER HOW WE GOT OUR PLAYGROUND, KIRAN?
SURE I DO, ERIC. THANKS TO BUTTERFINGERS' 'FIRM' GRIP!
TWO MONTHS EARLIER, GREEN PARK SCHOOL HAD WON THE NADKARNI MEMORIAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT. AS AMAR WENT TO RECEIVE THE TROPHY—
OOPS!
WHAT'S THAT??
CRASH
WHY, IT'S COLONEL NADKARNI'S WILL!
HUH?!
I HEREBY BEQUEATH MY GROUNDS TO THE GREEN PARK SCHOOL.
YIPPEE! A PLAYGROUND, FINALLY!
PROBABLY THE ONLY TIME WHEN BUTTERFINGERS' SLIP-GRIP WAS OF ANY USE!
IF YOU'RE THROUGH WITH THAT, CAN I CONTINUE?

SEE, CLASSES VIII, IX AND X HAVE TWO DIVISIONS EACH. THAT'S SIX FOOTBALL TEAMS. WE COULD DRAW LOTS AND NAME EACH TEAM AFTER A FOOTBALL PLAYING COUNTRY.
HMMM. IT ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA, ACTUALLY.


OKAY, HOW ABOUT WE NAME THE TEAMS BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, FRANCE AND...
...ITALY! WE'VE GOT TO HAVE ITALY! THINK OF TWO MORE NAMES. UNDERDOG COUNTRIES.

LET'S HAVE INDIA AND...TOGO!
GREAT! LET'S GO TALK TO MR SUNDERLAL ABOUT THIS.
MR SUNDERLAL WAS THEIR P.T. TEACHER.


GOOD IDEA, BOYS! BUT YOU'LL NEED TO GET THE PRINCIPAL'S PERMISSION.
YES, SIR.


OKAY, NOW WHO'S GOING TO BELL THE CAT? WHO'LL GO SPEAK TO PRINCIE?
PRIN
BUTTERFINGERS, OF COURSE. I'LL GO WITH HIM.

HE'S IN A BAD MOOD!
WHO IS THAT? WHAT IS IT?

AMAR EXPLAINED HIS IDEA, BUT—
A WORLD CUP COMPETITION? IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CRISIS?!
CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS, SIR?
SOLVE MY CRISIS AND HOLD ANY COMPETITION YOU LIKE! PUT THAT PAPERWEIGHT DOWN!
Y...YES, SIR.
GRRRR!
S...SORRY, SIR.
WE'LL COME BACK LATER.
CRASH
STORMY WEATHER IN THERE, EH?
YOU BET, SHEKHAR! WHAT'S THIS CRISIS PRINCIE'S TALKING ABOUT?
SHEKHAR WAS THE SCHOOL PEON AND A VERY USEFUL FRIEND TO HAVE.
YOU KNOW MR MOHAN, RIGHT?
THE ARCHITECT WHO'S DESIGNING OUR SCIENCE LABS? WHAT ABOUT HIM?
PRINCIP
HE HAD COME TO MEET THE PRINCIPAL THIS MORNING. AT SOME POINT, HE USED HIS RING TO DRAW A CIRCLE. BEAUTIFUL RING, IT WAS. PURE GOLD WITH A HUGE DIAMOND.
SO?!

SO, HE LEFT THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE WITHOUT THE RING AND REALISED IT ONLY MUCH LATER. THEN OF COURSE HE CALLED AND ASKED US TO SEARCH FOR IT. BUT....
BUT?!
IT WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. MR MOHAN'S BEEN CALLING EVERY HOUR THREATENING TO CALL THE POLICE IF THE RING ISN'T FOUND SOON.
OH! POOR PRINCIE!
REMEMBER WHAT PRINCIE SAID BACK IN THERE?
TO KEEP THE PAPERWEIGHT BACK ON THE TABLE?
NOT THAT, SILLY! HE SAID IF WE SOLVE THE CRISIS, HE'D LET US HOLD OUR WORLD CUP COMPETITION!
HMMM.
SHEKHAR, WHO ENTERED PRINCIE'S OFFICE AFTER MR MOHAN LEFT TODAY?
HMMM...A COUPLE OF TEACHERS, ME, AND YES, MR CHATTERJEE LEFT JUST BEFORE YOU TWO CAME.
SUBIN CHATTERJEE? THE RECLUSE? THE MYSTERIOUS MILLIONAIRE?
YES, YES, HIM. I'VE GOT TO GO NOW, BOYS.

BUT HE NEVER GETS OUT OF HIS HOUSE! WE'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE DESPITE HIS LIVING RIGHT NEXT DOOR!
AND WHY WOULD HE COME TO MEET PRINCIE?
HE'S TAKEN THE DIAMOND RING...I'M SURE OF IT. WE MUST GO INVESTIGATE AFTER SCHOOL.
SO AFTER SCHOOL THAT DAY —
HEY, THERE'S SOMEONE COMING OUT OF THE GATE. LET'S SNEAK IN.
HUGE HOUSE!
MORE LIKE A MANSION! HOW DO WE GO ABOUT...
AH, THERE YOU ARE! RAMLAL WAS PRETTY QUICK.
MY KITTEN'S ON THAT TREE, THERE. I HOPE YOU'RE GOOD AT CLIMBING. I'D DO IT MYSELF BUT I'M TOO OLD. AND MY HOUSE-HELP, RAMLAL, HE'S SCARED OF HEIGHTS.
W...WHAT?!
RAMLAL GOT YOU HERE TO RESCUE MY KITTEN DIDN'T HE?
Y...YES, YES. WHICH TREE?
B...BUT?

THAT ONE. SHE CLIMBED FAR TOO HIGH. MUST BE SCARED, POOR THING!
I'LL...I'LL GET HER.
UNGH!
HIGHER, SHE'S ON A HIGHER BRANCH. CAN YOU SEE HER THERE?
HERE, KITTY, KITTY!
MEOW!
MIAOW!
MY POOR LITTLE KITTEN!
HEY, THERE'S A NEST HERE. IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
BUTTERFINGERS, BE...
UH OH!
THUD
...CAREFUL!
THANK GOODNESS THE NEST HAD NO EGGS IN IT!

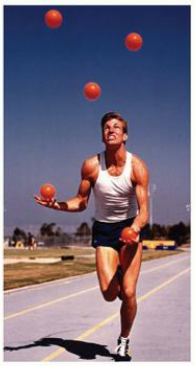
I AM SUBIN CHATTERJEE, BY THE WAY. GLAD TO MEET YOU. THANKS FOR RESCUING MY KITTEN. WILL YOU BOYS JOIN ME FOR TEA?
CHAT... CHATTERJEE?
AMAR, LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE THE NEST!
IT'S THE DIAMOND RING! MR MOHAN'S RING! A CROW WAS THE THIEF!
BUT WE THOUGHT...!
OVER TEA, THE BOYS EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.
HA HA HA! I'VE HEARD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT ME BUT THIS ONE TAKES THE CAKE!
WE'RE SORRY, SIR. IT'S JUST THAT NOBODY'S EVER SEEN YOU COME OUT OF YOUR HOUSE, SO....
OH, I DO COME OUT SOMETIMES. I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY WORKING ON MY BOOK.
BOOK? YOU'RE AN AUTHOR?
NOT REALLY. I AM RECORDING MY MEMOIRS. I USED TO BE GOALKEEPER FOR THE MOHUN BAGAN TEAM A LONG TIME AGO.
MOHUN BAGAN?!
FOOTBALL!!
YES, FOOTBALL. WHICH YOU BOYS ARE VERY GOOD AT! THAT'S WHY I CAME AND SPOKE TO YOUR PRINCIPAL. I'D LIKE TO HOLD A FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN THE NADKARNI GROUNDS FOR YOU. MAYBE I COULD SPONSOR THE TROPHY....
WOW! THAT WOULD BE GREAT!

WITH MR MOHAN'S RING RETURNED, THE PRINCIPAL KEPT HIS PROMISE.
OKAY, WE'LL HAVE THE WORLD CUP COMPETITION IN SCHOOL NEXT MONTH.
THANK YOU, SIR!
THE TEAMS WERE FORMED AFTER DRAWING LOTS. CLASS IX B WAS TEAM INDIA.
I'M GOING TO BE GOALKEEPER FOR TEAM INDIA!
ER...BUTTERFINGERS? ARE YOU SURE??
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE... NOBODY OPTED FOR GOALKEEPING EXCEPT FOR BUTTERFINGERS.
WELL, ONLY ONE PLAYER IN A FOOTBALL MATCH IS ALLOWED TO USE HIS HANDS - THE GOALKEEPER. AND WHEN BUTTERFINGERS USES HIS HANDS....
SOON, THE GREEN PARK WORLD CUP BEGAN. TEAM INDIA WON ALL THEIR MATCHES.
THE TRICK IS TO KEEP THE BALL AWAY FROM OUR GOAL.
AWAY FROM BUTTERFINGERS, YOU MEAN.
THE FINALS WERE TO BE PLAYED BETWEEN CLASS VIII A AND IX B - TEAM TOGO AND TEAM INDIA.

OH NO! THERE GOES A GOAL!
YEAAAAAAAA!
SAVED!!
THUD
AMAR SAVED ALL THE GOALS.
YOOOHOOOO!
GOOD SAVE, BUTTERFINGERS!!
GO
TEAM INDIA DEFEATED TEAM TOGO, 2 - 1. AMAR WAS MAN OF THE MATCH.
OH, OOPS!
HEH HEH HEH! GOOD OLD BUTTERFINGERS!
AMAR TOLD ME THAT SINCE HE ALWAYS LETS THINGS SLIP THROUGH HIS FINGERS, HE THOUGHT OF A UNIQUE WAY OF SAVING GOALS...BY FALLING OVER THE BALL! AND IT WORKED!
I'VE WATCHED SOME OF THE BEST GOALKEEPERS AT PLAY. BUT I'VE NEVER ENJOYED ANY MATCH AS I DID THIS ONE. I'LL INCLUDE YOUR UNIQUE METHOD IN MY BOOK, AMAR.
B FOR BUTTERFINGERS! B FOR BEST GOALKEEPER!

spoil-sport

WELL, THERE ARE CERTAIN SPORTS I LIKE (AND SURVIVE). FOOTBALL AND CRICKET ARE DEFINITELY MY FAVOURITES. BUT THEN THERE ARE OTHER SPORTS THAT I LONG TO PARTICIPATE IN, BUT THE FEAR THAT MY TALENTS MIGHT HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES KEEP ME AWAY FROM THEM. LET ME LIST OUT A FEW SPORTS FOR YOU AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN.



Joggling

The name says it all. A deadly combination of juggling and jogging, joggling is every butterfingers' nightmare. I would probably jog away from the tournament in shame after raining various juggling items on the heads of spectators.

The World Joggling Championships are held every year in the USA. Juggling balls or clubs can be used to juggle while jogging, but when the distance to be run is longer, people prefer using lighter and more manageable balls filled with birdseed. The challenge is to keep up a certain juggling pattern while jogging. If even one item is dropped, the participant has to go back to the starting line and begin again. At that rate, I'd never start the race.

Tall Bike Joust

The noble knights of yore must be cursing themselves for missing out on this sport that is played not atop noble horses but bicycles. Well, not ordinary bicycles… these are tall bikes, two-storey bikes constructed essentially by welding two bikes together, one on top of the other. Oh, the view! Enough to make one dizzy… but the sport, now that's another level of crazy altogether.

Imagine two tall bikes approaching each other at gallop speed with their riders holding rubber (or wooden, depending on how rough the rules are) lances at the ready, aiming to dislodge the opponent. I can't imagine how much a fall from that height would hurt. As an experienced faller, probably a lot. Another game off my list.

Cup Stacking

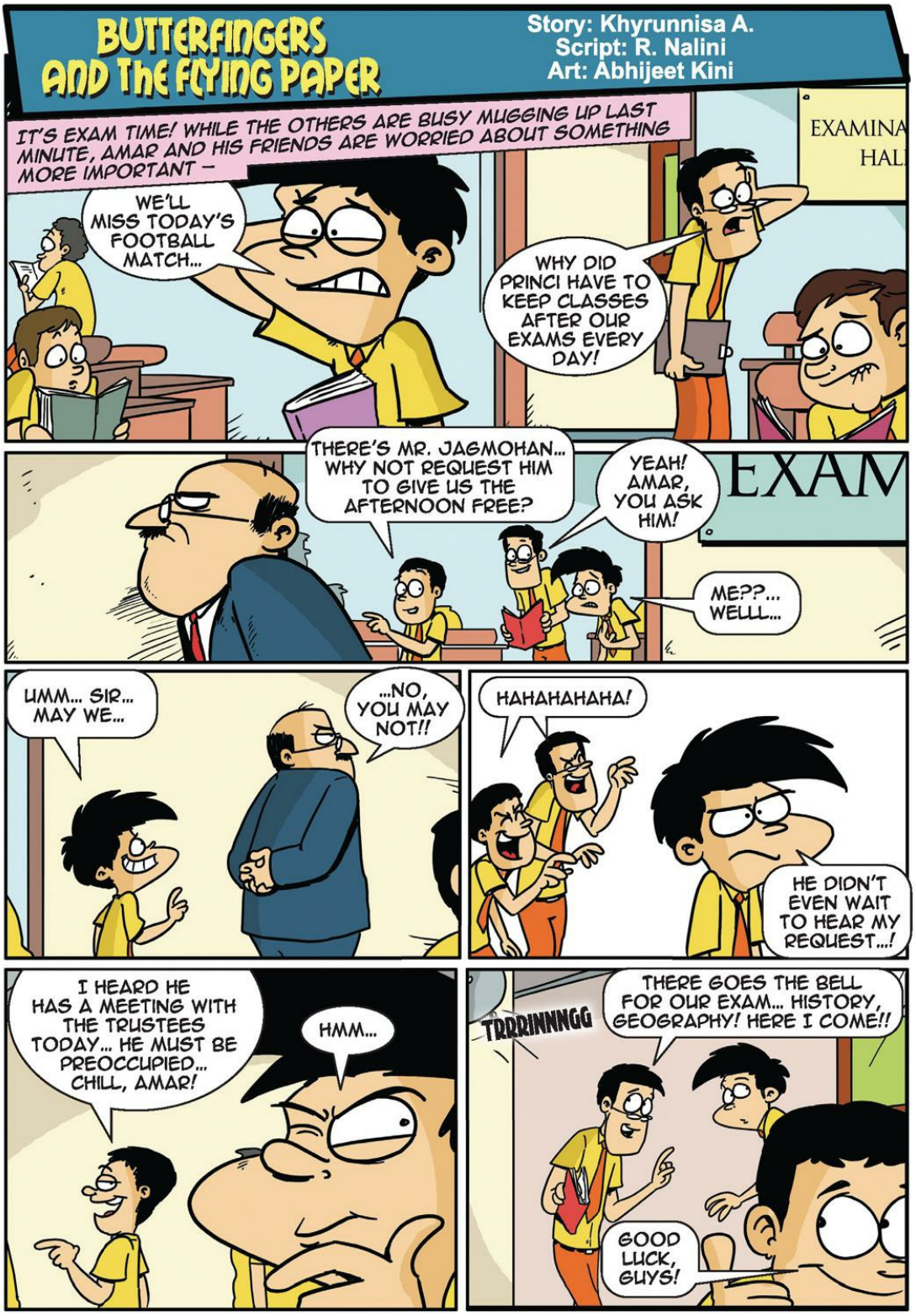
Uttering the word 'stacking' around me is like inviting disaster. But this sport must have escaped butterfingered contestants because it is thriving.

Cup stacking, also known as sport stacking, is a sport that involves stacking special plastic cups in predetermined patterns as fast as possible. This sport can be played individually or in a team. And the number of cups for the pyramids vary between three and ten (if you ask me, even one cup is one too many). A body called the World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) governs all big stacking events. May their cups forever overflow (and never fall).

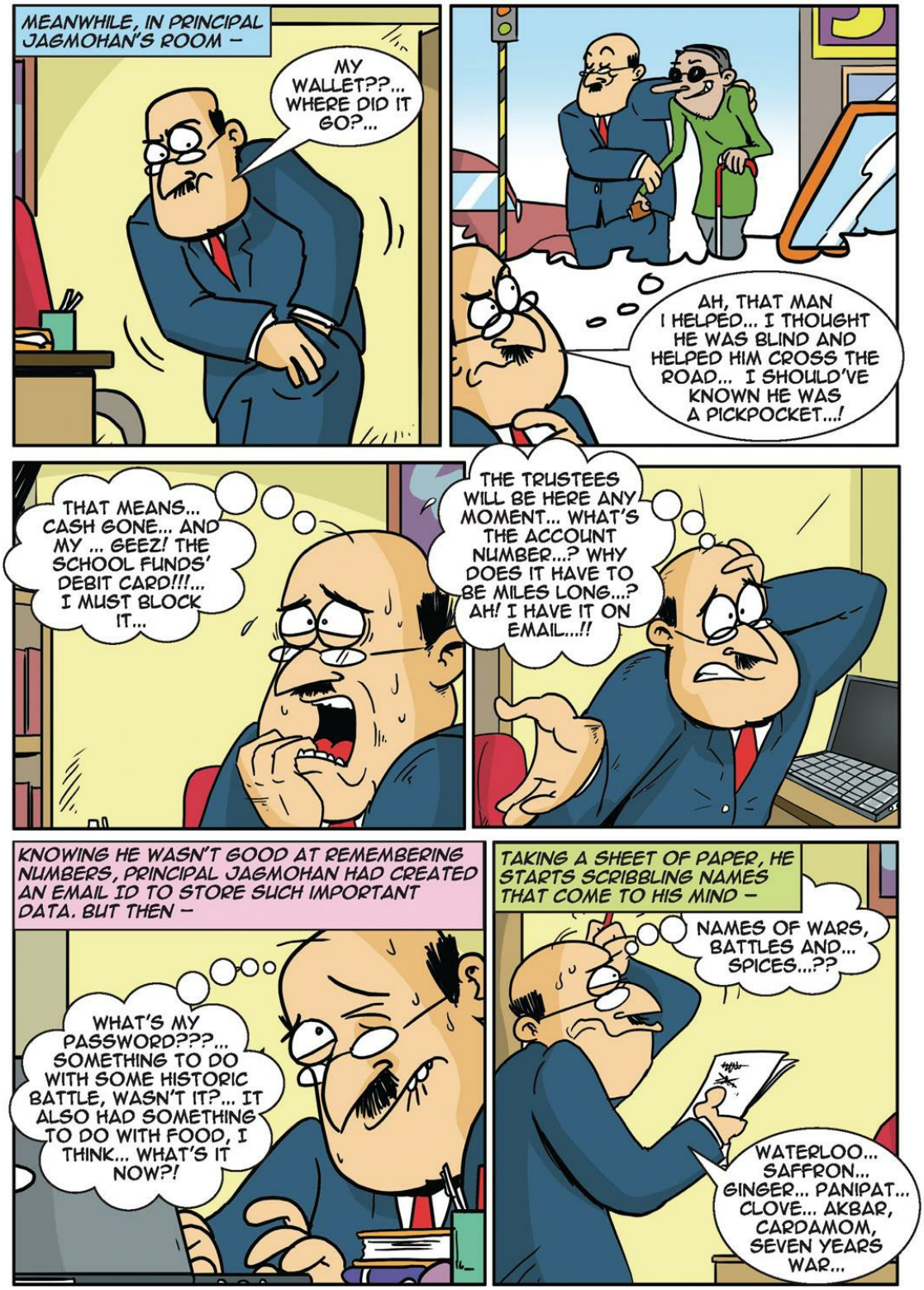
Text: Dolly Pahlajani Layout: Jitendra Patil

BUTTERFINGERS AND THE FLYING PAPER

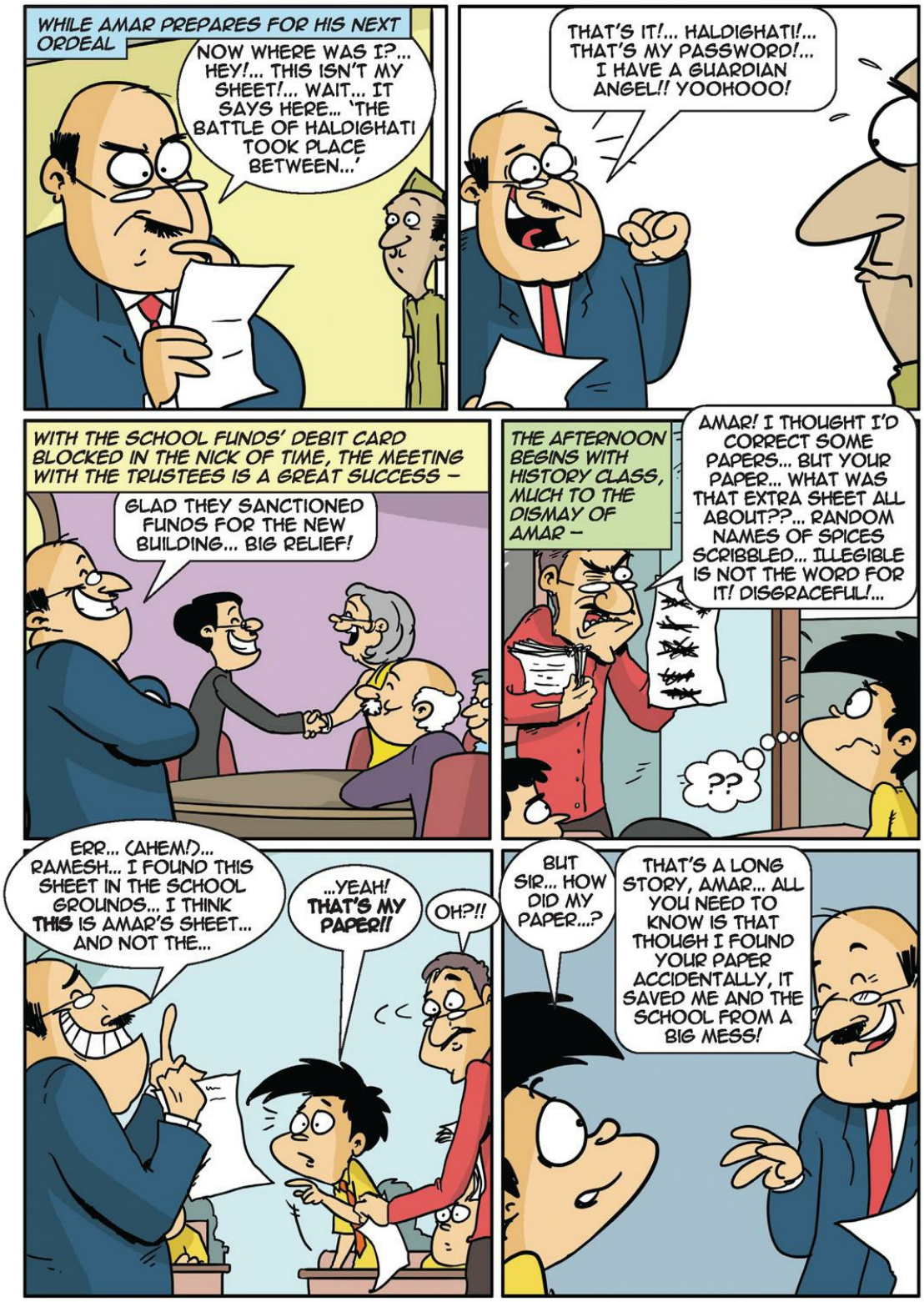
Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: R. Nalini
Art: Abhijeet Kini



OF THE ONE AND A HALF HOURS AT THE EXAMINATION HALL, AMAR USUALLY SPENDS THE FIRST 15 MINUTES READING THE QUESTION PAPER...
...ANOTHER 15 MINUTES SCRATCHING HIS HEAD AND DECIDING WHICH QUESTIONS TO ATTEMPT...
...FINALLY, HE GATHERS HIS THOUGHTS AND ACTUALLY BEGINS WRITING FRANTICALLY...
...SO, BY THE TIME HIS FRIENDS ARE MOVING TOWARDS PAPER SUBMISSION, AMAR IS SCRAMBLING FOR TIME...
...AND FOR –
SUPPLEMENT, SIR!
NOW??... BUT YOU HAVE ONLY FIVE MINUTES LEFT...
SOON, AS EXPECTED –
TRRINNGG!!
AMAR?!
TWO MINUTES, SIR! JUST TWO MORE MINUTES!

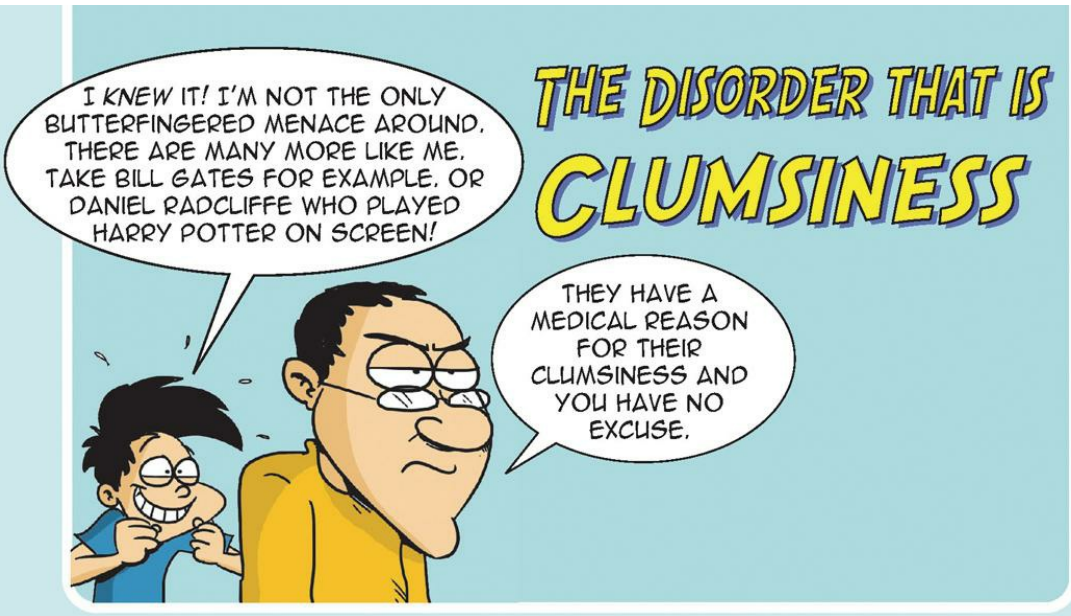

MEANWHILE, IN PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN'S ROOM –
MY WALLET??... WHERE DID IT GO?...
AH, THAT MAN I HELPED... I THOUGHT HE WAS BLIND AND HELPED HIM CROSS THE ROAD... I SHOULD'VE KNOWN HE WAS A PICKPOCKET...!
THAT MEANS... CASH GONE... AND MY ... GEEZ! THE SCHOOL FUNDS' DEBIT CARD!!!... I MUST BLOCK IT...
THE TRUSTEES WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT... WHAT'S THE ACCOUNT NUMBER...? WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE MILES LONG...? AH! I HAVE IT ON EMAIL...!!
KNOWING HE WASN'T GOOD AT REMEMBERING NUMBERS, PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN HAD CREATED AN EMAIL ID TO STORE SUCH IMPORTANT DATA. BUT THEN –
WHAT'S MY PASSWORD???... SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME HISTORIC BATTLE, WASN'T IT?... IT ALSO HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH FOOD, I THINK... WHAT'S IT NOW?!
TAKING A SHEET OF PAPER, HE STARTS SCRIBBLING NAMES THAT COME TO HIS MIND –
NAMES OF WARS, BATTLES AND... SPICES...??
WATERLOO... SAFFRON... GINGER... PANIPAT... CLOVE... AKBAR, CARDAMOM, SEVEN YEARS WAR...

SUDDENLY, THERE'S A GUST OF WIND AND –
WHOOOSH!
HEY!! MY PASSWORDS!
RIGHT ABOVE PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN'S ROOM HAPPENS TO BE AMAR'S CLASSROOM. THERE TOO –
SIR, MY EXTRA SHEET!!
!!
AMAR!!! RUN AND GET IT!! QUICK!!
Y-YES, SIR!!
WHAT'RE YOU STANDING HERE SERVING ME TEA FOR!!... MY PAPER HAS FLOWN OUT OF THE WINDOW... RUN AND GET IT RIGHT NOW!!
HUH??... O-OKAY, SIR!
AND SO –
FOUND IT!
FOUND IT!
BY THE TIME AMAR SUBMITS HIS SHEET, THE BELL RINGS FOR THE GEOGRAPHY EXAM–
LATE SUBMISSION AS USUAL, AMAR SEN?
AT LEAST HE FINALLY SUBMITTED THE PAPER!!

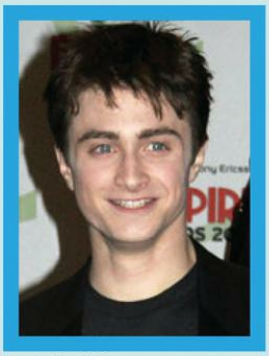

WHILE AMAR PREPARES FOR HIS NEXT ORDEAL
NOW WHERE WAS I?... HEY!... THIS ISN'T MY SHEET!... WAIT... IT SAYS HERE... 'THE BATTLE OF HALDIGHATI TOOK PLACE BETWEEN...'
THAT'S IT!... HALDIGHATI!... THAT'S MY PASSWORD!... I HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL!! YOOHOOO!
WITH THE SCHOOL FUNDS' DEBIT CARD BLOCKED IN THE NICK OF TIME, THE MEETING WITH THE TRUSTEES IS A GREAT SUCCESS –
GLAD THEY SANCTIONED FUNDS FOR THE NEW BUILDING... BIG RELIEF!
THE AFTERNOON BEGINS WITH HISTORY CLASS, MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF AMAR –
AMAR! I THOUGHT I'D CORRECT SOME PAPERS... BUT YOUR PAPER... WHAT WAS THAT EXTRA SHEET ALL ABOUT??... RANDOM NAMES OF SPICES SCRIBBLED... ILLEGIBLE IS NOT THE WORD FOR IT! DISGRACEFUL!...
??
ERR... (AHEM!)... RAMESH... I FOUND THIS SHEET IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS... I THINK THIS IS AMAR'S SHEET... AND NOT THE...
...YEAH! THAT'S MY PAPER!!
OH?!!
BUT SIR... HOW DID MY PAPER...?
THAT'S A LONG STORY, AMAR... ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT THOUGH I FOUND YOUR PAPER ACCIDENTALLY, IT SAVED ME AND THE SCHOOL FROM A BIG MESS!

IN RETURN, I'D LIKE TO REWARD YOU... WHAT WERE YOU ASKING ME THIS MORNING?
ERR... COULD WE HAVE THE AFTERNOON OFF TODAY... ERM... WE WANTED TO... W-WATCH THE FOOTBALL MATCH...
SURE! YOU CAN HAVE THE AFTERNOON OFF... NOT JUST TODAY, BUT EVERY DAY... HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT GAVE ME THE IDEA OF HOLDING AFTERNOON CLASSES! YOU'RE ALL FREE TO GO!
HURRAYYYY!!
AS THE BOYS RUSH OUT –
OOOPS... MY BAG!
THUP!
ERR... RAMESH... ABOUT THE ILLEGIBLE HANDWRITING ON THAT SHEET, YOU SEE, I WAS... MY HANDWRITING'S NOT THAT GOOD AND...
!!
FEELS GOOD TO KNOW SOMETHING THAT OTHERS DON'T!... ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL!!
VERY TRUE, BUTTERFINGERS! VERY TRUE!!

THE DISORDER THAT IS CLUMSINESS



Text: Dolly Pahlajani Layout: Jitendra Patil


Daniel Radcliffe

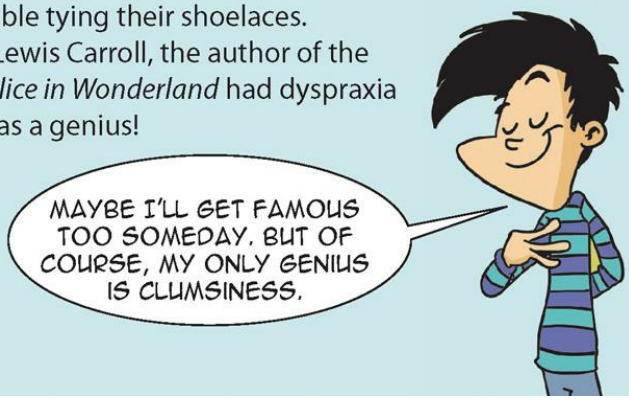
It's true. There are many people who suffer from a medical disorder called dyspraxia, also known as developmental coordination disorder. It is a problem related to the body's nervous system and often begins in childhood.

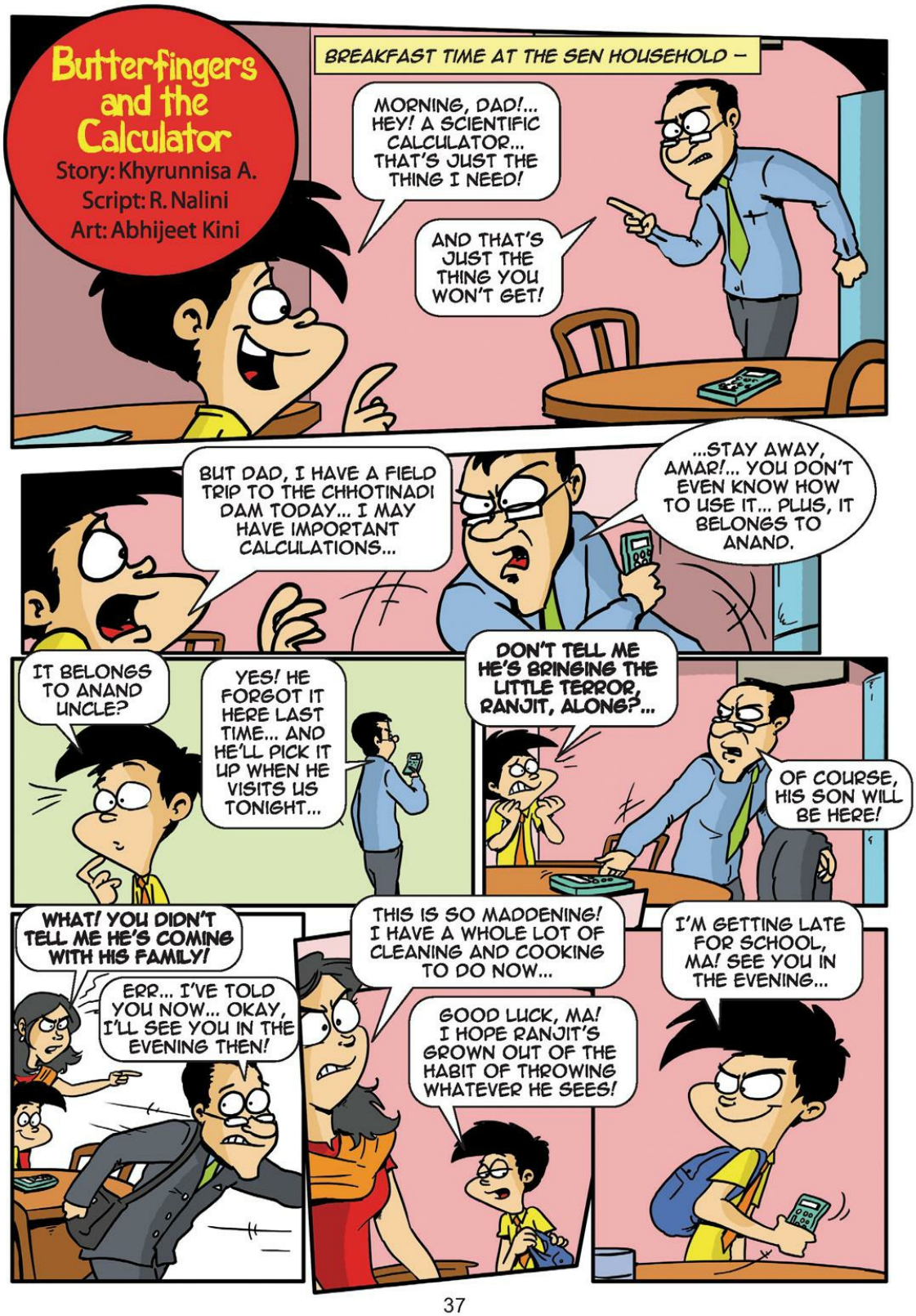
Ordinarily, the nervous system has to carry messages from the brain to the various parts of the body. So, when the brain says 'walk', the nerves carry this message to the legs and they start moving. But, when someone has dyspraxia, their brain does not process the message properly which means that their messages transmitted by the nerves do not produce the desired results. This leads to delayed movements and general uncoordination. This does not mean that the people suffering from dyspraxia are less smarter than the rest of the world, although they might have learning disorders (like dyslexia) during childhood and sometimes have trouble tying their shoelaces.

Lewis Carroll

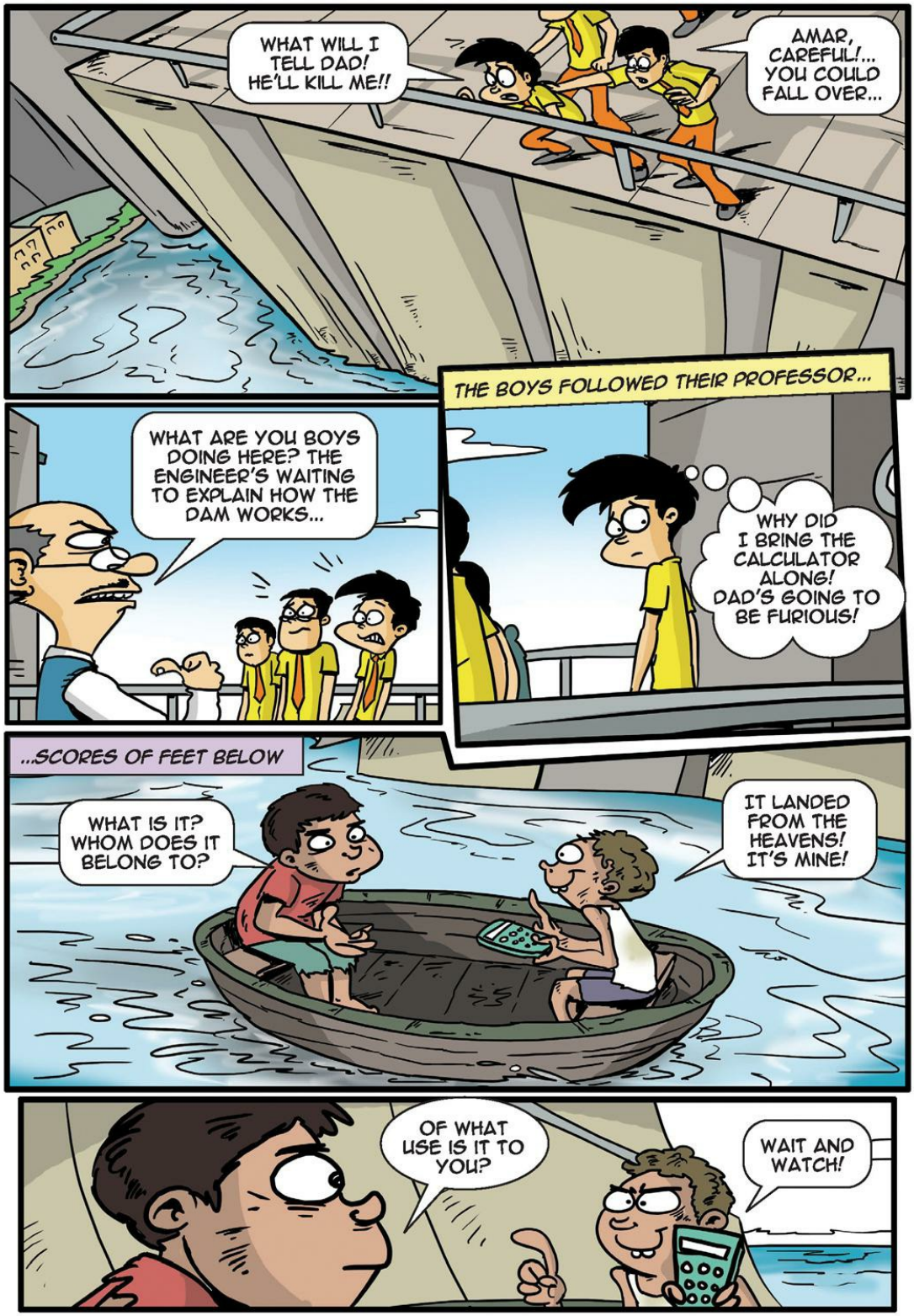
Bill Gates

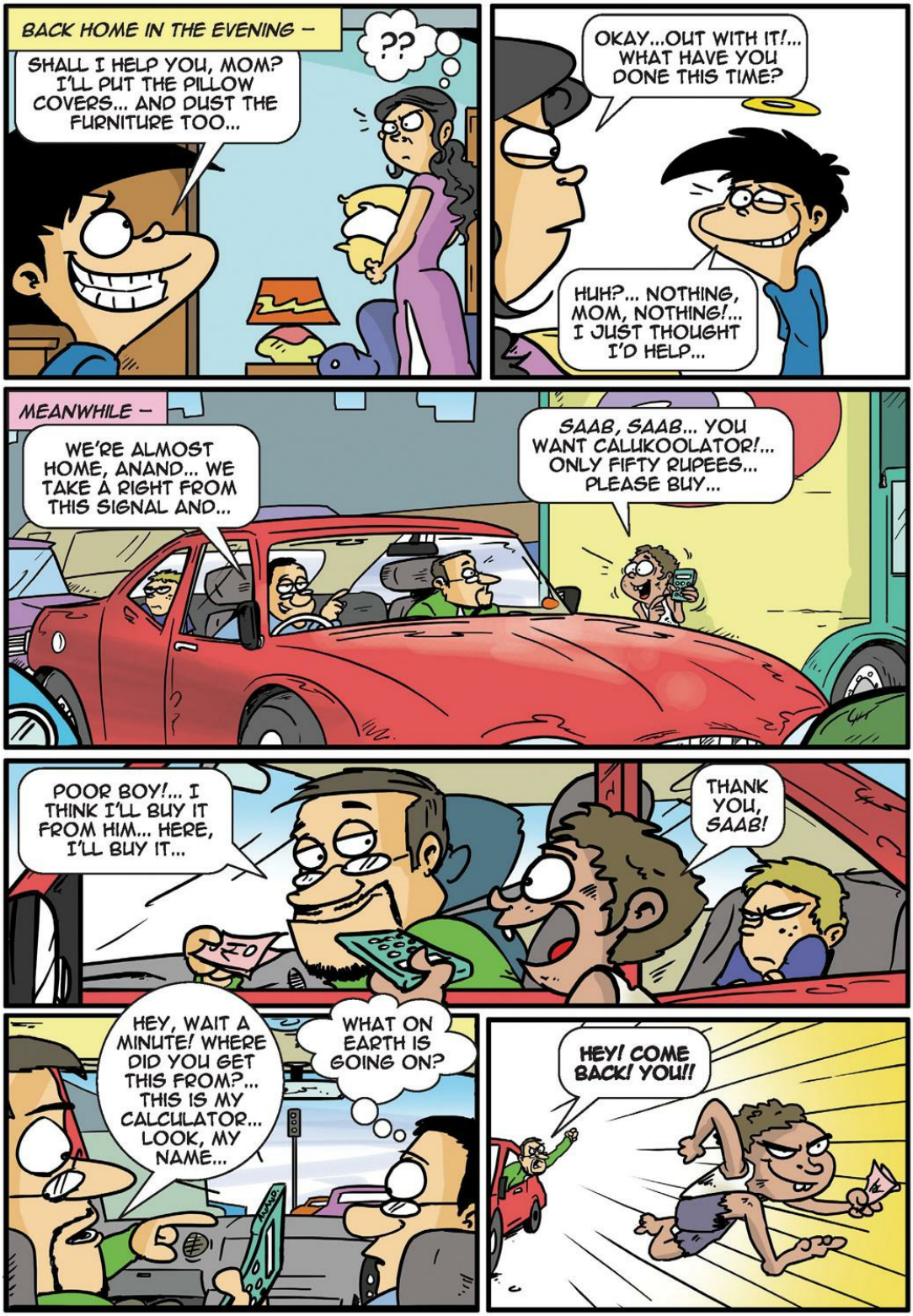
In fact, Lewis Carroll, the author of the famous *Alice in Wonderland* had dyspraxia and he was a genius!

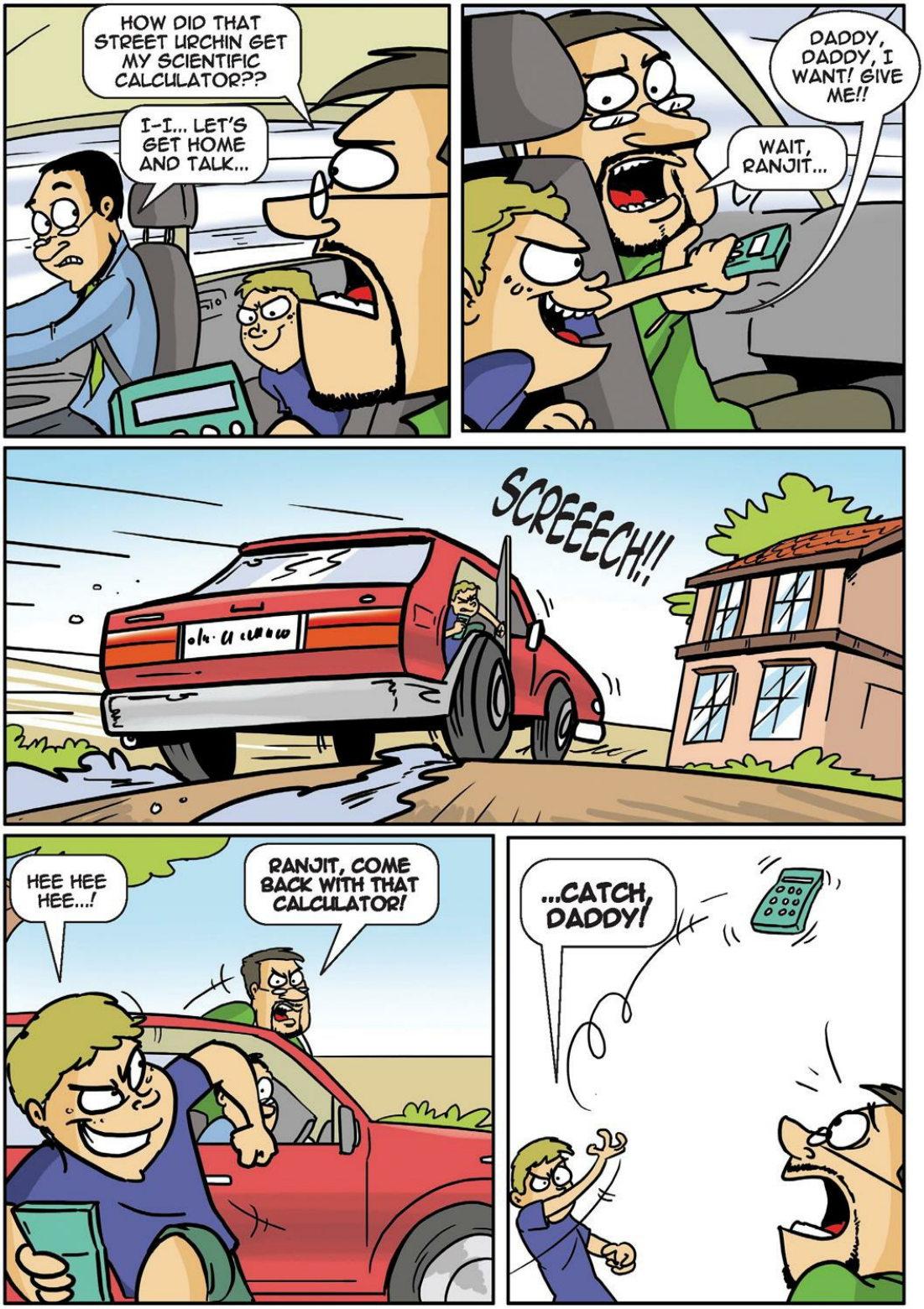


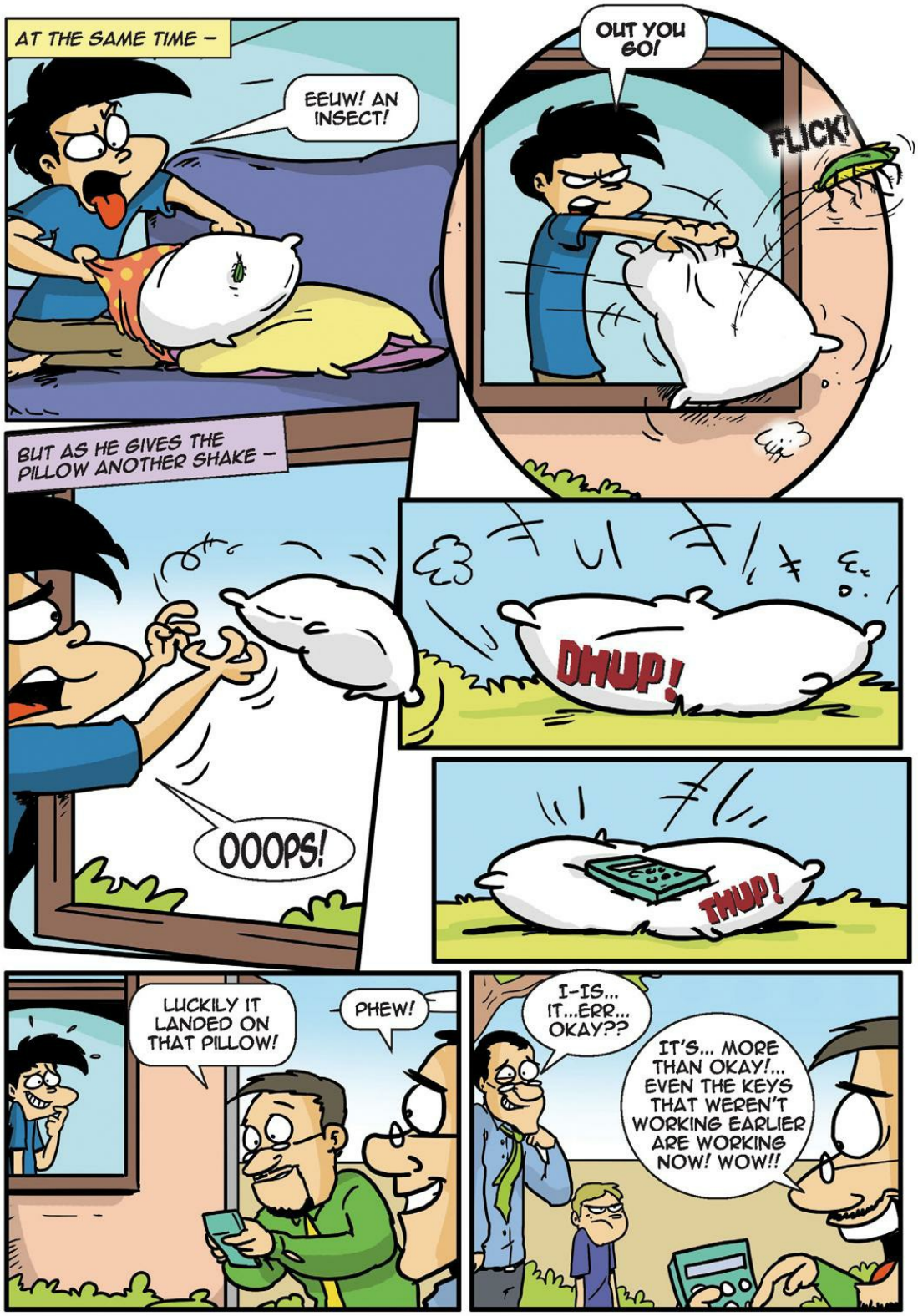

Butterfingers and the Calculator
Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: R. Nalini
Art: Abhijeet Kini
BREAKFAST TIME AT THE SEN HOUSEHOLD –
MORNING, DAD!... HEY! A SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR... THAT'S JUST THE THING I NEED!
AND THAT'S JUST THE THING YOU WON'T GET!
BUT DAD, I HAVE A FIELD TRIP TO THE CHHOTINADI DAM TODAY... I MAY HAVE IMPORTANT CALCULATIONS...
...STAY AWAY, AMAR!... YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE IT... PLUS, IT BELONGS TO ANAND.
IT BELONGS TO ANAND UNCLE?
YES! HE FORGOT IT HERE LAST TIME... AND HE'LL PICK IT UP WHEN HE VISITS US TONIGHT...
DON'T TELL ME HE'S BRINGING THE LITTLE TERROR, RANJIT, ALONG?...
OF COURSE, HIS SON WILL BE HERE!
WHAT! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME HE'S COMING WITH HIS FAMILY!
ERR... I'VE TOLD YOU NOW... OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU IN THE EVENING THEN!
THIS IS SO MADDENING! I HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF CLEANING AND COOKING TO DO NOW...
GOOD LUCK, MA! I HOPE RANJIT'S GROWN OUT OF THE HABIT OF THROWING WHATEVER HE SEES!
I'M GETTING LATE FOR SCHOOL, MA! SEE YOU IN THE EVENING...

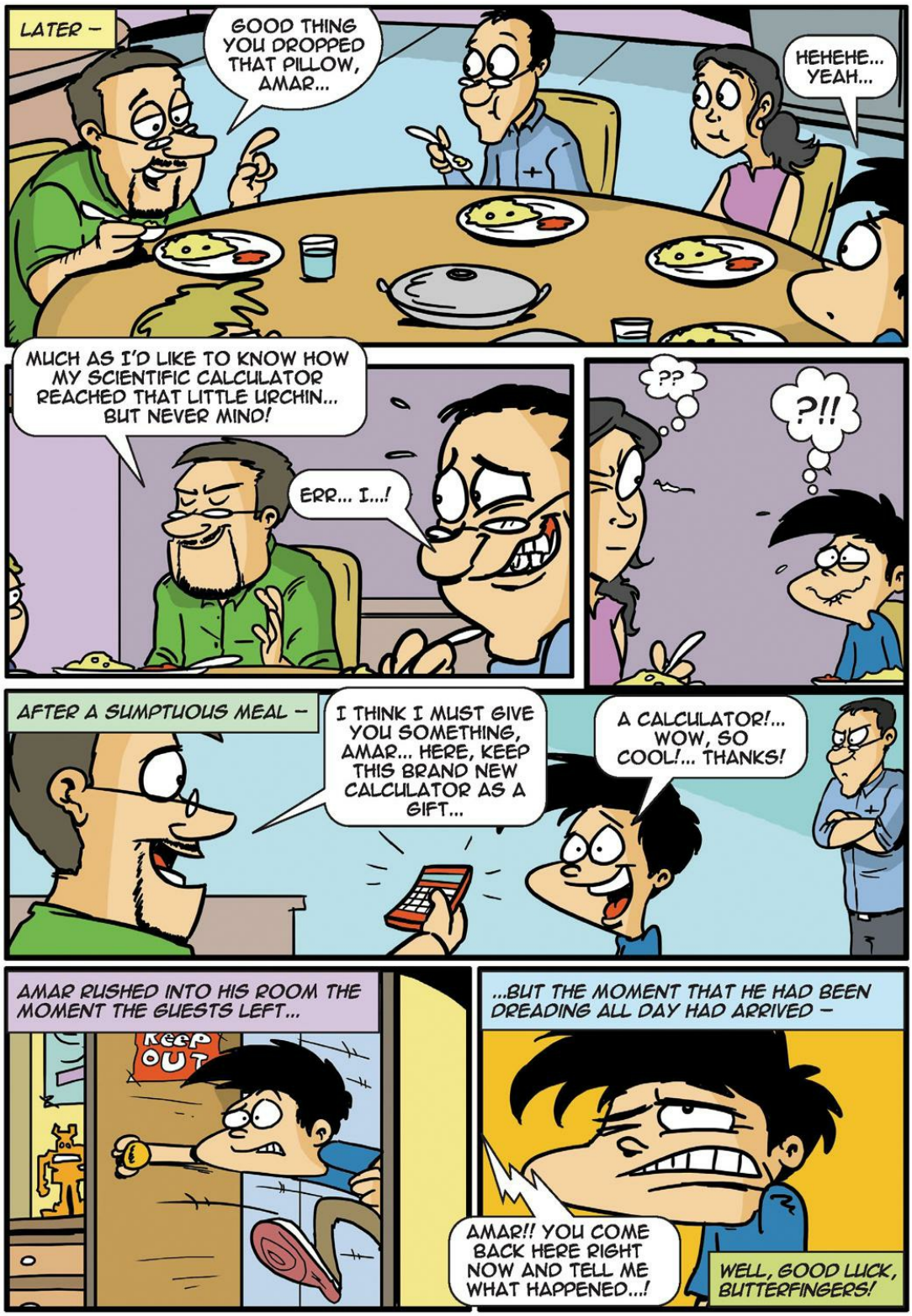
AT THE CHHOTINADI DAM –
...WITH THE CALCULATOR!
AMAR, NOOOOO!!
WHOA! THERE'S ENOUGH WATER FOR AN ENTIRE CITY HERE!
NO, THERE ISN'T!
I BET THERE IS...
MY SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR CAN HELP US!
SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR? WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT? AS IF YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS...
YEAH, WHATEVER!
WHAT'S UP, BUTTER!
HEY!
ARE YOU MAD?... THAT WAS MY DAD'S FRIEND'S SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR... WHAT DO I DO NOW?
SORRY, AMAR! I DIDN'T SEE IT!


WHAT WILL I TELL DAD! HE'LL KILL ME!!
AMAR, CAREFUL!... YOU COULD FALL OVER...
THE BOYS FOLLOWED THEIR PROFESSOR...
WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING HERE? THE ENGINEER'S WAITING TO EXPLAIN HOW THE DAM WORKS...
WHY DID I BRING THE CALCULATOR ALONG! DAD'S GOING TO BE FURIOUS!
...SCORES OF FEET BELOW
WHAT IS IT? WHOM DOES IT BELONG TO?
IT LANDED FROM THE HEAVENS! IT'S MINE!
OF WHAT USE IS IT TO YOU?
WAIT AND WATCH!


BACK HOME IN THE EVENING –
SHALL I HELP YOU, MOM? I'LL PUT THE PILLOW COVERS... AND DUST THE FURNITURE TOO...
??
OKAY...OUT WITH IT!... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THIS TIME?
HUH?... NOTHING, MOM, NOTHING!... I JUST THOUGHT I'D HELP...
MEANWHILE –
WE'RE ALMOST HOME, ANAND... WE TAKE A RIGHT FROM THIS SIGNAL AND...
SAAB, SAAB... YOU WANT CALUKOOLATOR!... ONLY FIFTY RUPEES... PLEASE BUY...
POOR BOY!... I THINK I'LL BUY IT FROM HIM... HERE, I'LL BUY IT...
THANK YOU, SAAB!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS FROM?... THIS IS MY CALCULATOR... LOOK, MY NAME...
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?
HEY! COME BACK! YOU!!


HOW DID THAT STREET URCHIN GET MY SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR??
I-I... LET'S GET HOME AND TALK...
DADDY, DADDY, I WANT! GIVE ME!!
WAIT, RANJIT...
SCREEECH!!
HEE HEE HEE...!
RANJIT, COME BACK WITH THAT CALCULATOR!
...CATCH, DADDY!

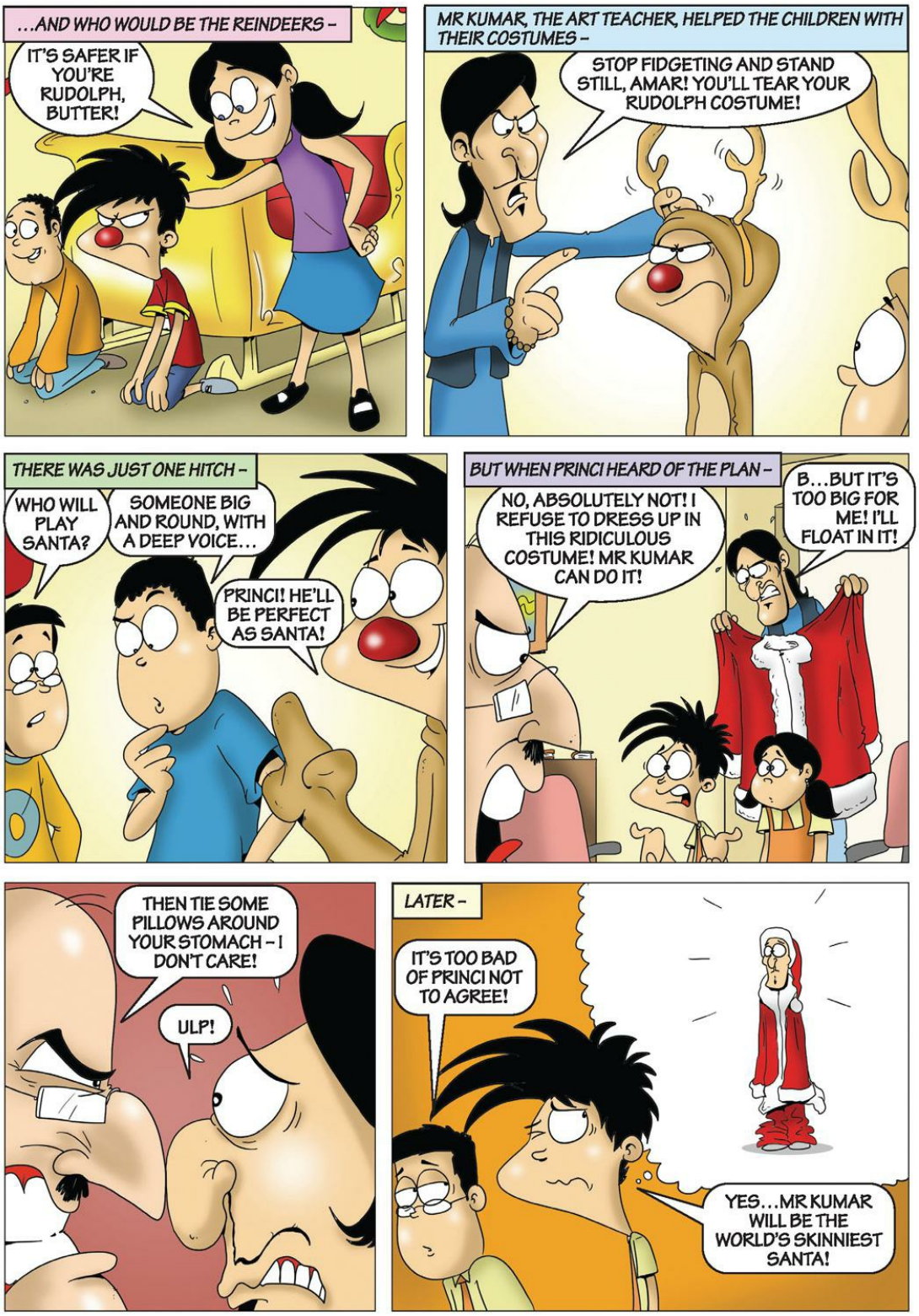

AT THE SAME TIME –
EEUW! AN INSECT!
OUT YOU GO!
FLICK!
BUT AS HE GIVES THE PILLOW ANOTHER SHAKE –
OOOPS!
DHUP!
THUP!
LUCKILY IT LANDED ON THAT PILLOW!
PHEW!
I-IS... IT...ERR... OKAY??
IT'S... MORE THAN OKAY!... EVEN THE KEYS THAT WEREN'T WORKING EARLIER ARE WORKING NOW! WOW!!


LATER –
GOOD THING YOU DROPPED THAT PILLOW, AMAR...
HEHEHE... YEAH...
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW MY SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR REACHED THAT LITTLE URCHIN... BUT NEVER MIND!
ERR... I...!
??
?!!
AFTER A SUMPTUOUS MEAL –
I THINK I MUST GIVE YOU SOMETHING, AMAR... HERE, KEEP THIS BRAND NEW CALCULATOR AS A GIFT...
A CALCULATOR!... WOW, SO COOL!... THANKS!
AMAR RUSHED INTO HIS ROOM THE MOMENT THE GUESTS LEFT...
KEEP OUT
...BUT THE MOMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN DREADING ALL DAY HAD ARRIVED –
AMAR!! YOU COME BACK HERE RIGHT NOW AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED...!
WELL, GOOD LUCK, BUTTERFINGERS!

Butterfingers - Christmas caper

Story: Khyrunnisa A
Script: Anomita Guha
Illustrations/Colouring: Abhijeet Kini

NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT THE REST OF YOUR CLASS THINKS OF YOUR IDEAS!
Quiet Please
IT TURNED OUT THAT THE CLASS THOUGHT QUITE HIGHLY OF AMAR'S AND ERIC'S IDEAS FOR THE PLAY.
IT'LL BE FUN TO DRESS UP IN REINDEER AND ELF COSTUMES!
AND WE CAN BUILD SANTA'S SLEIGH AND MAKE SETS FOR THE PLAY IN CARPENTRY CLASS!
AND SO THE WORK BEGAN –
HEY, HAS ANYONE SEEN THE HAMMER?
IT'S OVER HERE! I'LL GET IT FOR YOU!
I'LL GET IT MYSELF! I DON'T WANT A HAMMER FALLING ON MY HEAD, THANKS VERY MUCH!
HUMPH!
REHEARSALS WERE HELD TO DECIDE WHO WOULD BE THE ELVES…
OOPS!
CRASH!


...AND WHO WOULD BE THE REINDEERS –
IT'S SAFER IF YOU'RE RUDOLPH, BUTTER!
MR KUMAR, THE ART TEACHER, HELPED THE CHILDREN WITH THEIR COSTUMES –
STOP FIDGETING AND STAND STILL, AMAR! YOU'LL TEAR YOUR RUDOLPH COSTUME!
THERE WAS JUST ONE HITCH –
WHO WILL PLAY SANTA?
SOMEONE BIG AND ROUND, WITH A DEEP VOICE...
PRINCI! HE'LL BE PERFECT AS SANTA!
BUT WHEN PRINCI HEARD OF THE PLAN –
NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT! I REFUSE TO DRESS UP IN THIS RIDICULOUS COSTUME! MR KUMAR CAN DO IT!
B...BUT IT'S TOO BIG FOR ME! I'LL FLOAT IN IT!
THEN TIE SOME PILLOWS AROUND YOUR STOMACH – I DON'T CARE!
ULP!
LATER –
IT'S TOO BAD OF PRINCI NOT TO AGREE!
YES...MR KUMAR WILL BE THE WORLD'S SKINNIEST SANTA!

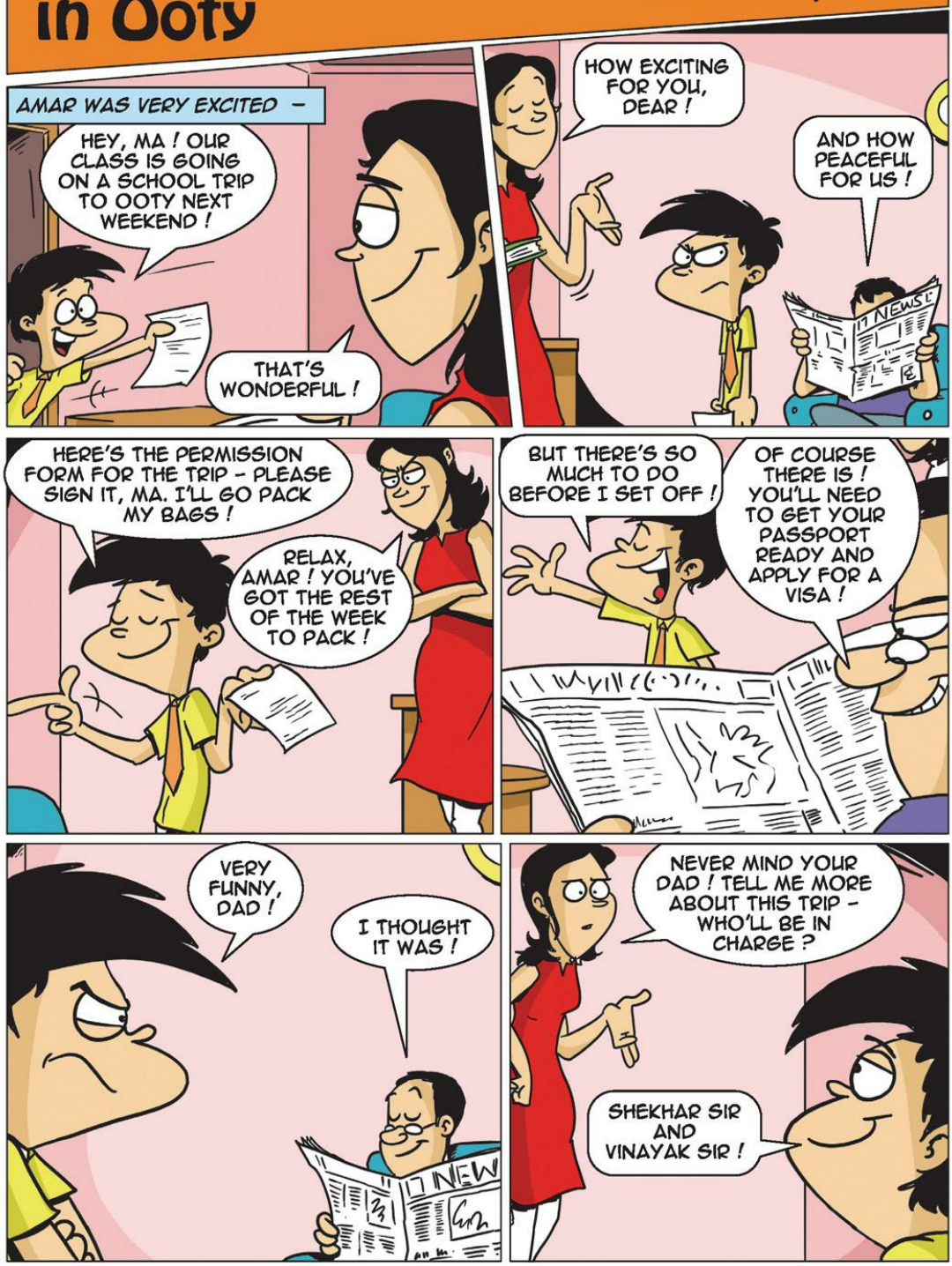
THE DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS PLAY SOON ARRIVED –
LOOK AT THE CROWD OUT THERE!
I HOPE THEY LIKE OUR PLAY!
MINU, KIRAN, TAKE YOUR PLACES! THE FIRST SCENE BEGINS WITH THE ELVES BUSILY MAKING TOYS AT SANTA'S WORKSHOP
YOU SHOULD GET DRESSED TOO, MR KUMAR!
YES, YES! I JUST HAVE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN FIRST!
ALL RIGHT, SIR!
THE CURTAIN ROSE AND THE PLAY BEGAN –
KIRAN AND MINU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB AS ELVES!
YES…BUT WHERE'S MR KUMAR?! HE SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW! I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM!
MR KUMAR! THERE YOU ARE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON STAGE IN TEN MINUTES!
!!!
BY THE WAY, YOU LOOK GREAT AS SANTA, SIR! HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO PAD YOUR COSTUME SO WELL?!
?!!

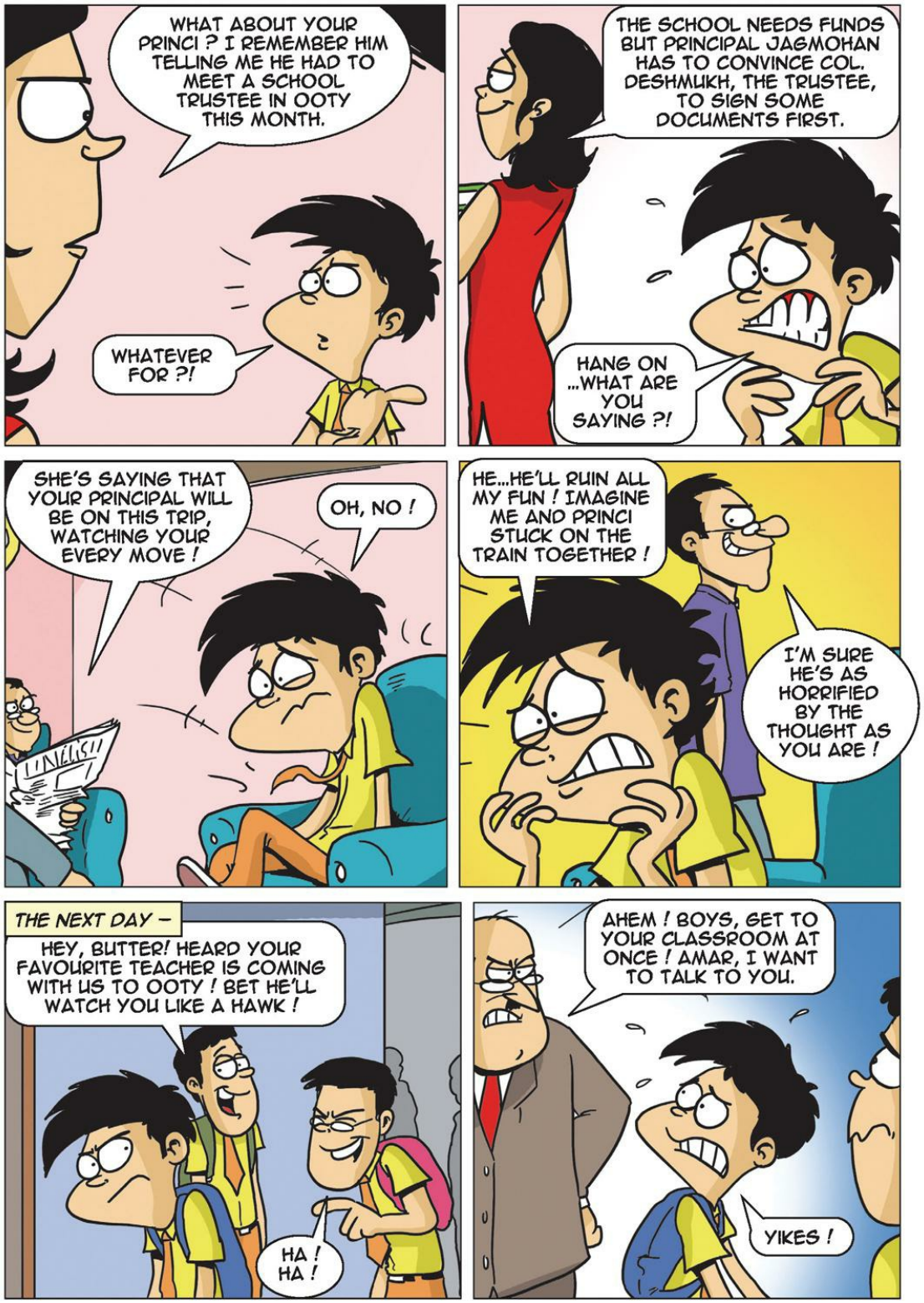
COME ON, SIR, WE'D BETTER HURRY! I'LL CARRY YOUR SACK FOR YOU...
NO!
OOOOPS!
GASP!
CRASH!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
THIS SANTA'S A THIEF! HE CAME HERE TO STEAL OUR TROPHIES!
LOOK!
!!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MR KUMAR, YOU RASCAL?!
I TIED HIM UP AND TOSSED HIM INTO THAT CUPBOARD!
SOON –
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
YES...BUT A BIT STIFF AFTER BEING TREATED LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES!

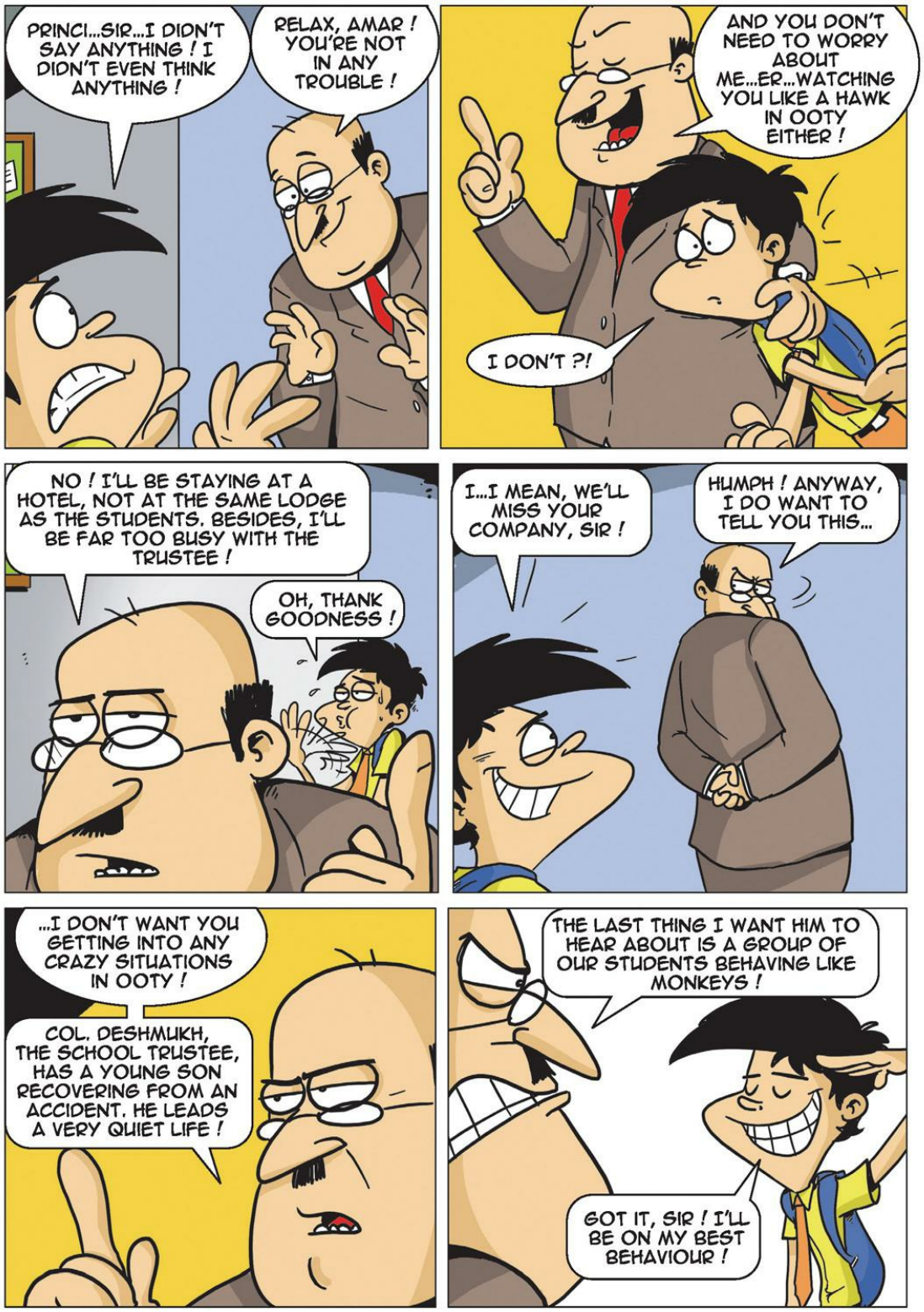
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS NOW?
ALL MR KUMAR WILL DO NOW IS REST! SO STOP PESTERING HIM ABOUT THE PLAY!
B...BUT THE AUDIENCE IS EXPECTING TO SEE SANTA! THE CHRISTMAS PLAY WILL BE A FLOP WITHOUT HIM!
HMMM...
WELL, SINCE YOU'VE SAVED THE DAY, AMAR, I REALLY SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THE CHRISTMAS PLAY!
YOU DON'T MEAN...
IT'S SANTA!
CLAP! CLAP!
PRINCI!
AND THANKS TO SANTA (AND RUDOLPH), THE PLAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!
HO! HO! HO!

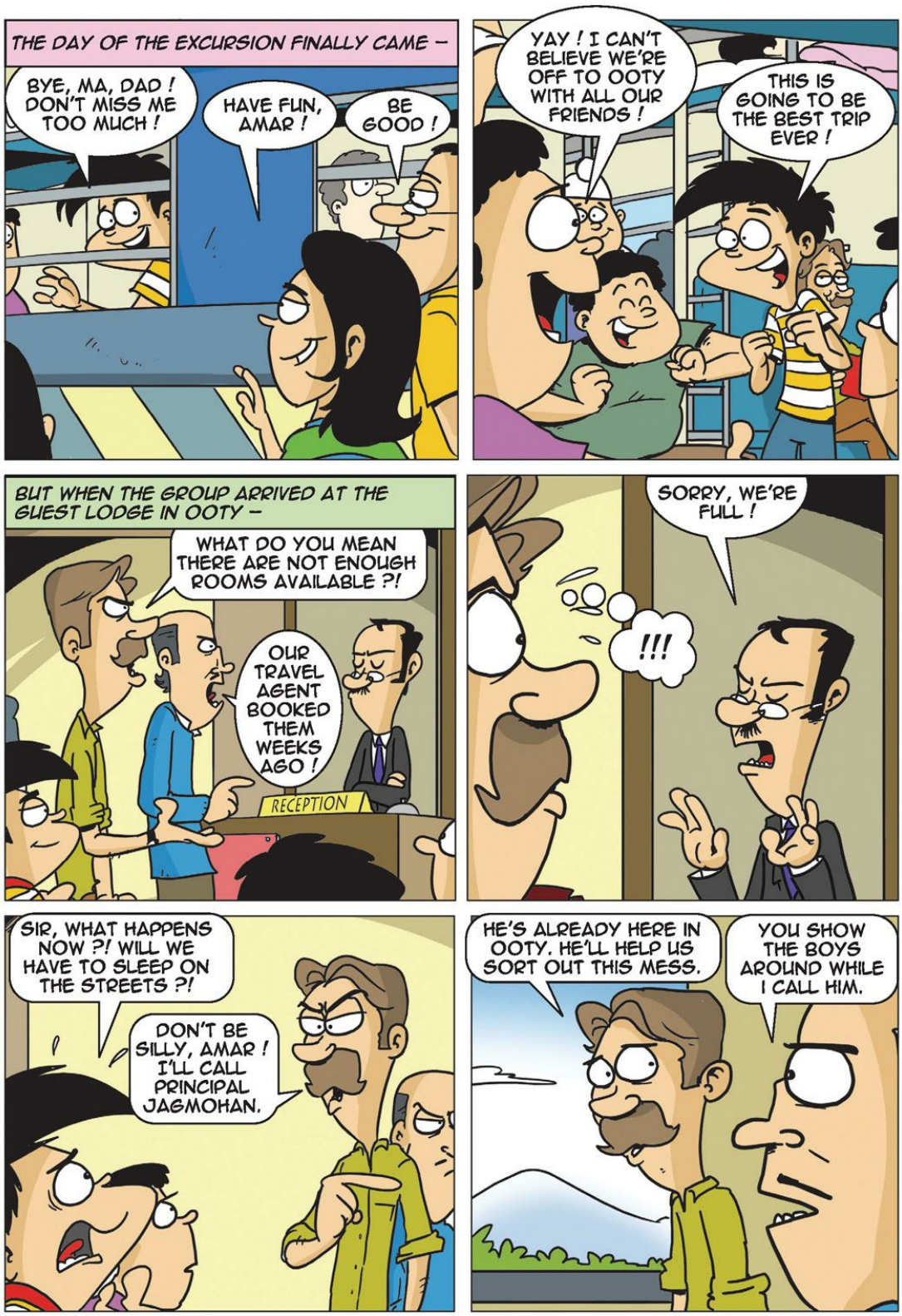
Butterfingers in Ooty

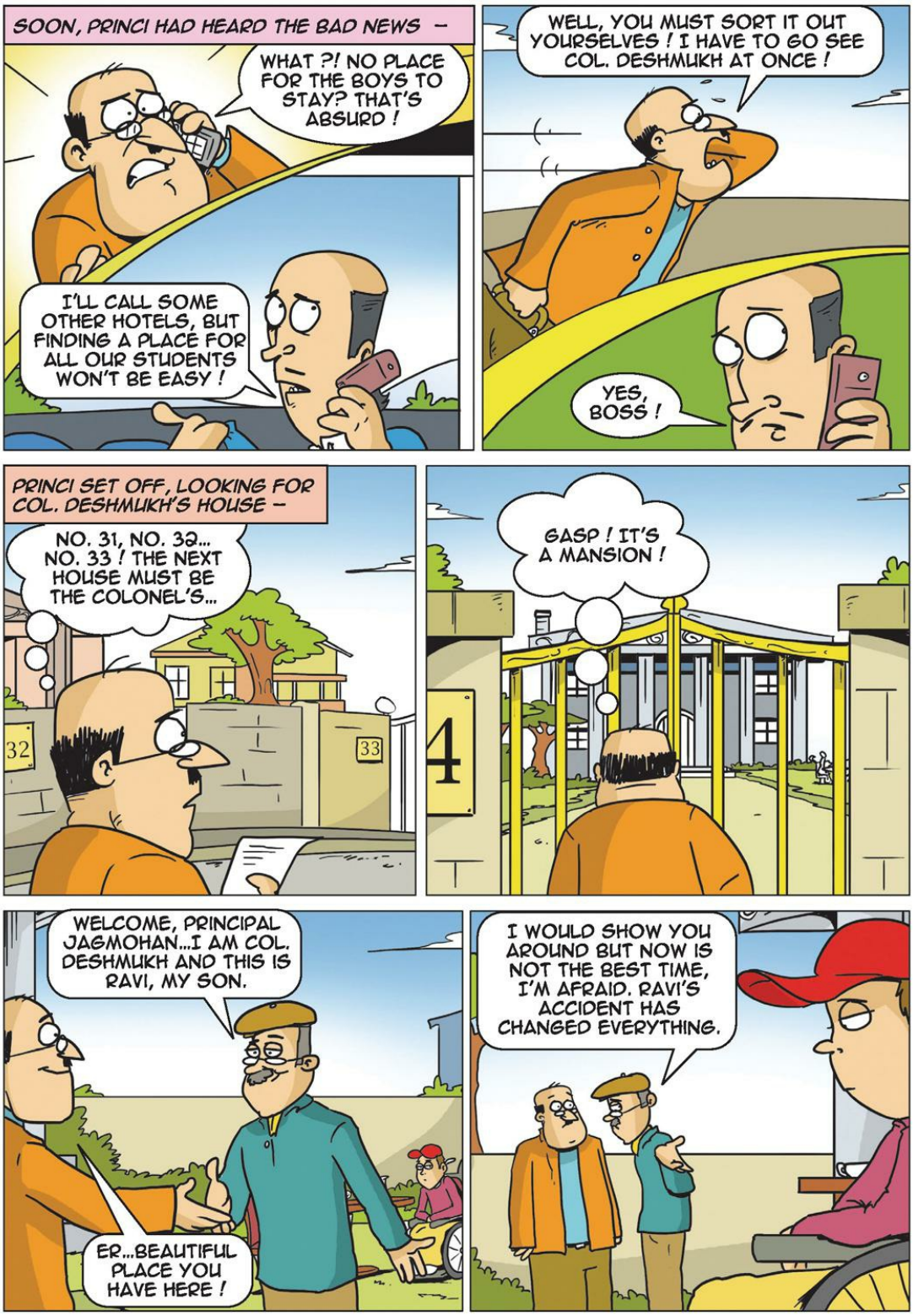
Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: Anomita Guha
Illustrations: Abhijeet Kini

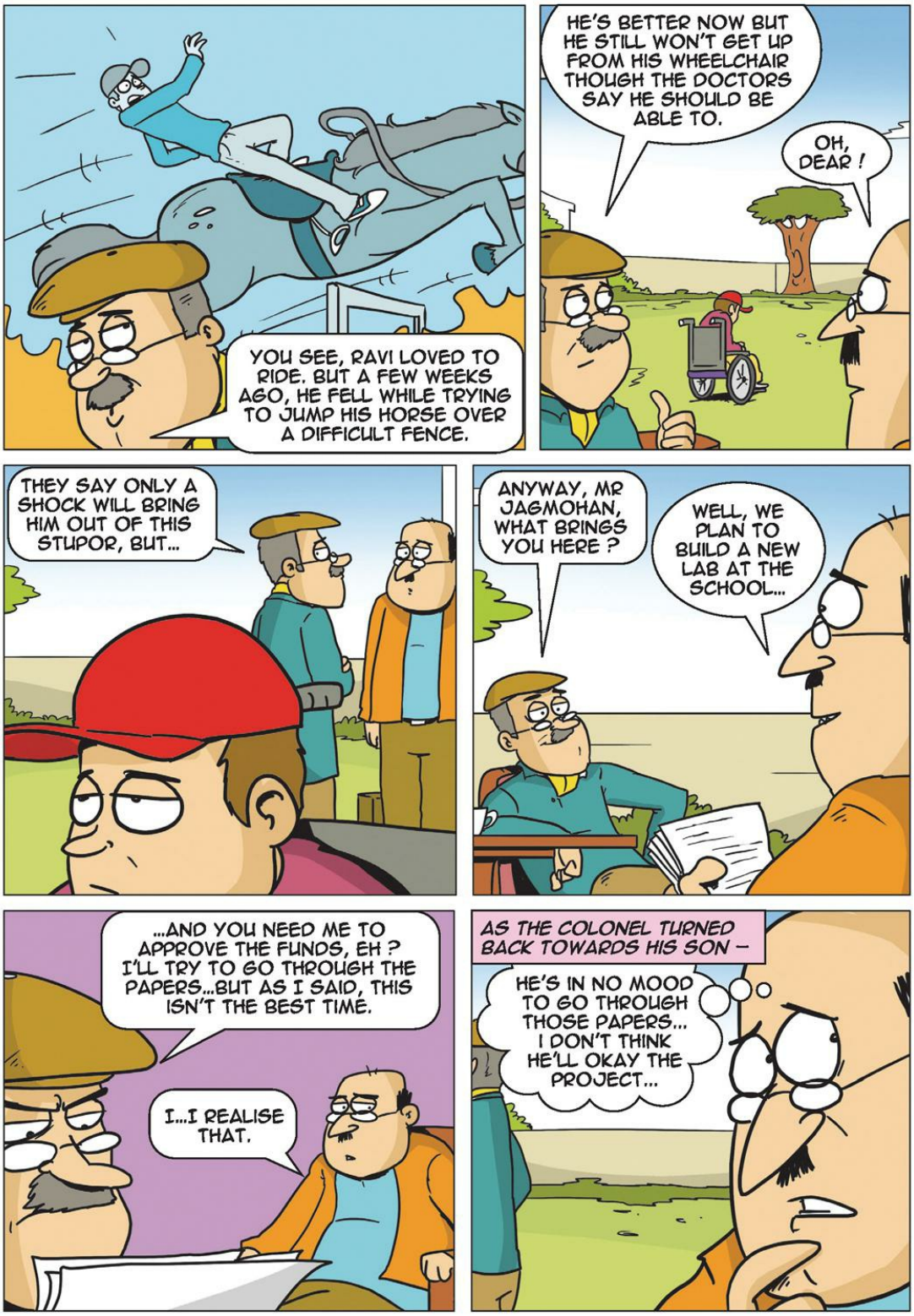



WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRINCI ? I REMEMBER HIM TELLING ME HE HAD TO MEET A SCHOOL TRUSTEE IN OOTY THIS MONTH.
WHATEVER FOR ?!
THE SCHOOL NEEDS FUNDS BUT PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN HAS TO CONVINCE COL. DESHMUKH, THE TRUSTEE, TO SIGN SOME DOCUMENTS FIRST.
HANG ON ...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!
SHE'S SAYING THAT YOUR PRINCIPAL WILL BE ON THIS TRIP, WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVE !
OH, NO !
HE...HE'LL RUIN ALL MY FUN ! IMAGINE ME AND PRINCI STUCK ON THE TRAIN TOGETHER !
I'M SURE HE'S AS HORRIFIED BY THE THOUGHT AS YOU ARE !
THE NEXT DAY –
HEY, BUTTER! HEARD YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHER IS COMING WITH US TO OOTY ! BET HE'LL WATCH YOU LIKE A HAWK !
HA ! HA !
AHEM ! BOYS, GET TO YOUR CLASSROOM AT ONCE ! AMAR, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
YIKES !


PRINCI...SIR...I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ! I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ANYTHING !
RELAX, AMAR ! YOU'RE NOT IN ANY TROUBLE !
AND YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME...ER...WATCHING YOU LIKE A HAWK IN OOTY EITHER !
I DON'T ?!
NO ! I'LL BE STAYING AT A HOTEL, NOT AT THE SAME LODGE AS THE STUDENTS. BESIDES, I'LL BE FAR TOO BUSY WITH THE TRUSTEE !
OH, THANK GOODNESS !
I...I MEAN, WE'LL MISS YOUR COMPANY, SIR !
HUMPH ! ANYWAY, I DO WANT TO TELL YOU THIS...
...I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING INTO ANY CRAZY SITUATIONS IN OOTY !
COL. DESHMUKH, THE SCHOOL TRUSTEE, HAS A YOUNG SON RECOVERING FROM AN ACCIDENT. HE LEADS A VERY QUIET LIFE !
THE LAST THING I WANT HIM TO HEAR ABOUT IS A GROUP OF OUR STUDENTS BEHAVING LIKE MONKEYS !
GOT IT, SIR ! I'LL BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOUR !


THE DAY OF THE EXCURSION FINALLY CAME –
BYE, MA, DAD ! DON'T MISS ME TOO MUCH !
HAVE FUN, AMAR !
BE GOOD !
YAY ! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE OFF TO OOTY WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS !
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE BEST TRIP EVER !
BUT WHEN THE GROUP ARRIVED AT THE GUEST LODGE IN OOTY –
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH ROOMS AVAILABLE ?!
OUR TRAVEL AGENT BOOKED THEM WEEKS AGO !
RECEPTION
SORRY, WE'RE FULL !
!!!
SIR, WHAT HAPPENS NOW ?! WILL WE HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE STREETS ?!
DON'T BE SILLY, AMAR ! I'LL CALL PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN.
HE'S ALREADY HERE IN OOTY. HE'LL HELP US SORT OUT THIS MESS.
YOU SHOW THE BOYS AROUND WHILE I CALL HIM.


SOON, PRINCI HAD HEARD THE BAD NEWS –
WHAT ?! NO PLACE FOR THE BOYS TO STAY? THAT'S ABSURD !
I'LL CALL SOME OTHER HOTELS, BUT FINDING A PLACE FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS WON'T BE EASY !
WELL, YOU MUST SORT IT OUT YOURSELVES ! I HAVE TO GO SEE COL. DESHMUKH AT ONCE !
YES, BOSS !
PRINCI SET OFF, LOOKING FOR COL. DESHMUKH'S HOUSE –
NO. 31, NO. 32... NO. 33 ! THE NEXT HOUSE MUST BE THE COLONEL'S...
32
33
GASP ! IT'S A MANSION !
4
WELCOME, PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN...I AM COL. DESHMUKH AND THIS IS RAVI, MY SON.
ER...BEAUTIFUL PLACE YOU HAVE HERE !
I WOULD SHOW YOU AROUND BUT NOW IS NOT THE BEST TIME, I'M AFRAID. RAVI'S ACCIDENT HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING.


YOU SEE, RAVI LOVED TO RIDE. BUT A FEW WEEKS AGO, HE FELL WHILE TRYING TO JUMP HIS HORSE OVER A DIFFICULT FENCE.
HE'S BETTER NOW BUT HE STILL WON'T GET UP FROM HIS WHEELCHAIR THOUGH THE DOCTORS SAY HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO.
OH, DEAR !
THEY SAY ONLY A SHOCK WILL BRING HIM OUT OF THIS STUPOR, BUT...
ANYWAY, MR JAGMOHAN, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ?
WELL, WE PLAN TO BUILD A NEW LAB AT THE SCHOOL...
...AND YOU NEED ME TO APPROVE THE FUNDS, EH ? I'LL TRY TO GO THROUGH THE PAPERS...BUT AS I SAID, THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME.
I...I REALISE THAT.
AS THE COLONEL TURNED BACK TOWARDS HIS SON –
HE'S IN NO MOOD TO GO THROUGH THOSE PAPERS... I DON'T THINK HE'LL OKAY THE PROJECT...

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY –
LOOK, THEY OFFER PONY RIDES HERE !
OOH ! HOW EXCITING !
PONY RIDES
I'D LIKE TO RIDE THIS FELLOW ! WHAT'S HIS NAME ?
NELSON! BUT BE CAREFUL... HE'S A BIT TEMPERAMENTAL !
AS BUTTERFINGERS EAGERLY CLIMBED ONTO HIS HORSE –
HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN A HORSE BEFORE, AMAR ?
OH, LOTS OF TIMES !
I HAD A WOODEN ROCKING HORSE WHEN I WAS A CHILD, YOU KNOW !
ULP !
GIDDY UP, NELSON ! HUAH !
DON'T DO THAT !
Whinney!
EXCITED BY AMAR'S ANTICS, THE HORSE SUDDENLY BROKE AWAY –
YIKES !
AMAR ! COME BACK !

NELSON RACED ACROSS THE FIELD...
HELP !
...WHILE AMAR HELD ON FOR DEAR LIFE –
WHERE IS HE TAKING ME ?!
AMAR ?!
NELSON ?!
EEP ! PRINCIPAL JAGMOHAN !
AMAR ! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS ?!
NELSON ! OH, NELSON ! YOU'VE COME TO SEE ME !
RAVI ! YOU STOOD UP ON YOUR OWN !
I'VE MISSED OLD NEL SO MUCH...YOU SENT HIM AWAY AFTER MY ACCIDENT AND I NEVER SAW HIM AFTER THAT !
I NEVER REALISED YOU WERE PINING FOR HIM !

POOR OLD NEL ! HE NEVER MEANT TO HURT ME !
IF ONLY I'D KNOWN HE WAS THE CURE YOU NEEDED ALL ALONG !
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING NELSON HERE, MY BOY ! IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN REPAY YOU ?
UM...CAN YOU HELP US FIND A PLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT ?
YOU CAN STAY WITH US ! TONS OF ROOM HERE...AND RAVI WOULD ENJOY YOUR COMPANY !
OH, YES !
AND..ER...DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GO THROUGH THE DOCUMENTS I BROUGHT ?
I'LL SIGN THEM RIGHT NOW !
THEN IT SEEMS THAT ALL OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED !
THANKS TO GOOD OLD BUTTERFINGERS, RIGHT ?
HUMPH !
UMM !
HARRUMPH !

How to Butter-proof Your Home

Having a butterfingered friend coming over? Or has our pop quiz told you that you are 98 per cent butterfinger-y? Well, worry not. Here are things you need to do to make sure everything stays safe in your house. Disaster-free results are guaranteed#! (#Conditions apply)

Text: Dolly Pahlajani *Layout: Jitendra Patil*

- Coat all the floors in your house with rubber. Or better still, use bouncy trampolines. Everything (or everyone) will simply bounce back*.
- Use metal or plastic kitchenware in your house. Now, make sure that these cutlery stay sealed. That way, they can be carried around with ease without fear of accidental falls. Moreover, even if they fall, nothing spills because of the seal**.
- Say no to mirrors! They're entirely too brittle to be hung up on walls on frail little nails. Let's not reflect on what would happen if one of those fell on your head. And don't forget glass windows too. They can withstand the harshest of winds but will not survive one tug from the hands of a master butterfingers***.
- Water is a big threat. Its tiny, scheming molecules gather into puddles for the sole purpose of slipping you up. Make sure you use absorbent mugs and buckets and glasses. No leakage equals no slip-ups****.
- Make sure you have no pointy things lying around in your house. No knives, scissors, nails, nail-cutters… you get the picture. These things may be useful but can prove lethal in the hands of a butterfingers##.

Congrats! Your house is now a fortress. Its peace can never be shattered by a butterfingered entity. Say what? They banged against the wall? Well, who needs walls? Oh, right. The roof does. Maybe the best butter-proofing you can give the house is… keeping the butterfingers out.

**Make sure the trampoline isn't too elastic. Or there might be no stopping the hopping!*

***Uh… I hope the seals are not permanent. In that case, you might never be able to use the containers at all. But maybe, you'll like eating with your hand… and out of it.*

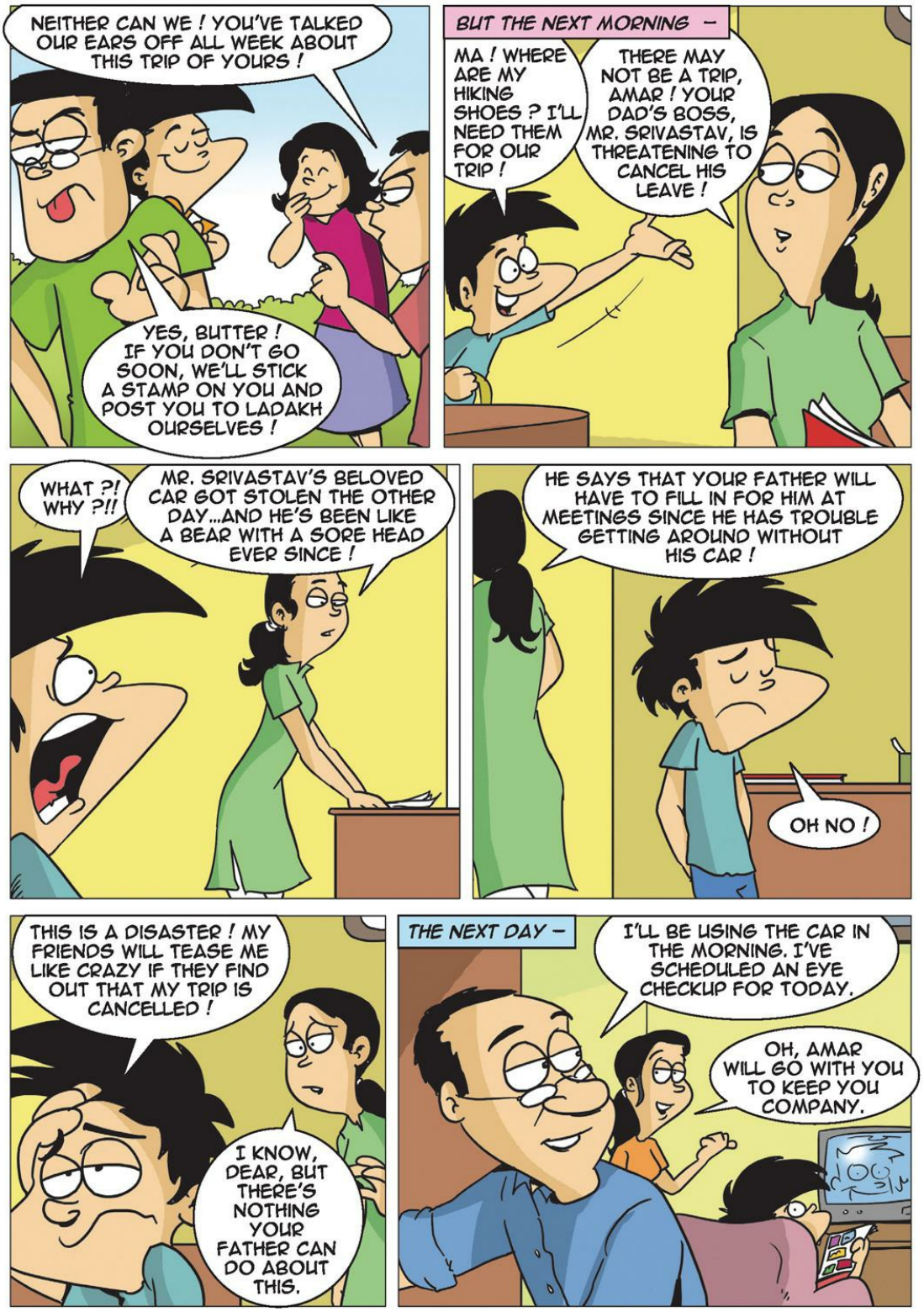
****If you do feel the urge to look at your reflection when you're dressed up, use an eyeball. I mean look into the eyes of a person around you. As for windows, who needs them when you have doors? Speaking of doors, they aren't made of glass, are they?*

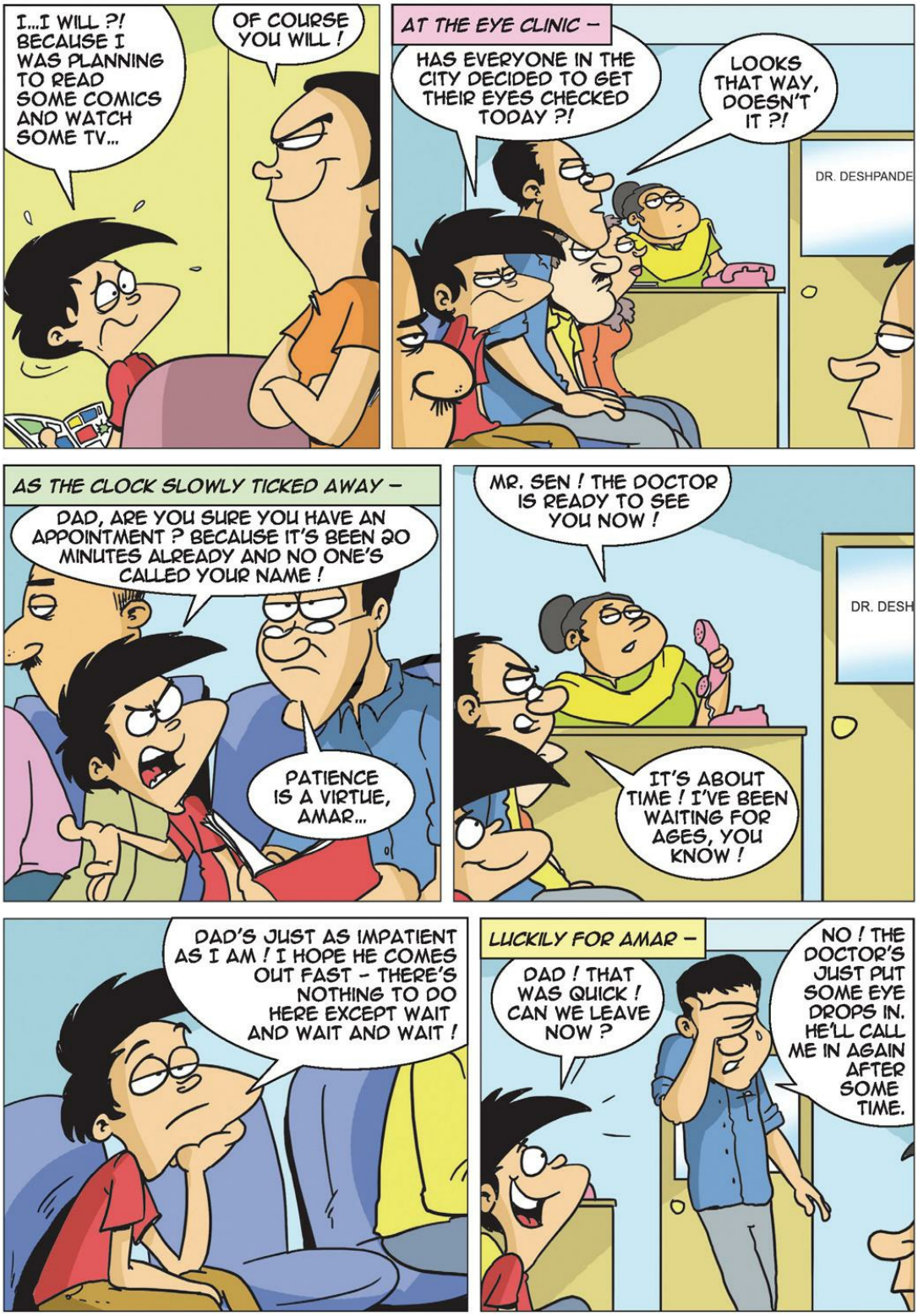
*****Besides that, your fingers will grow stronger with having to squeeze the absorbent containers when you're thirsty or when you need to bathe.*

##Of course, you can always blunt the edges but they wouldn't be of much use, would they? Better throw them away.

Butterfingers Gets Going!

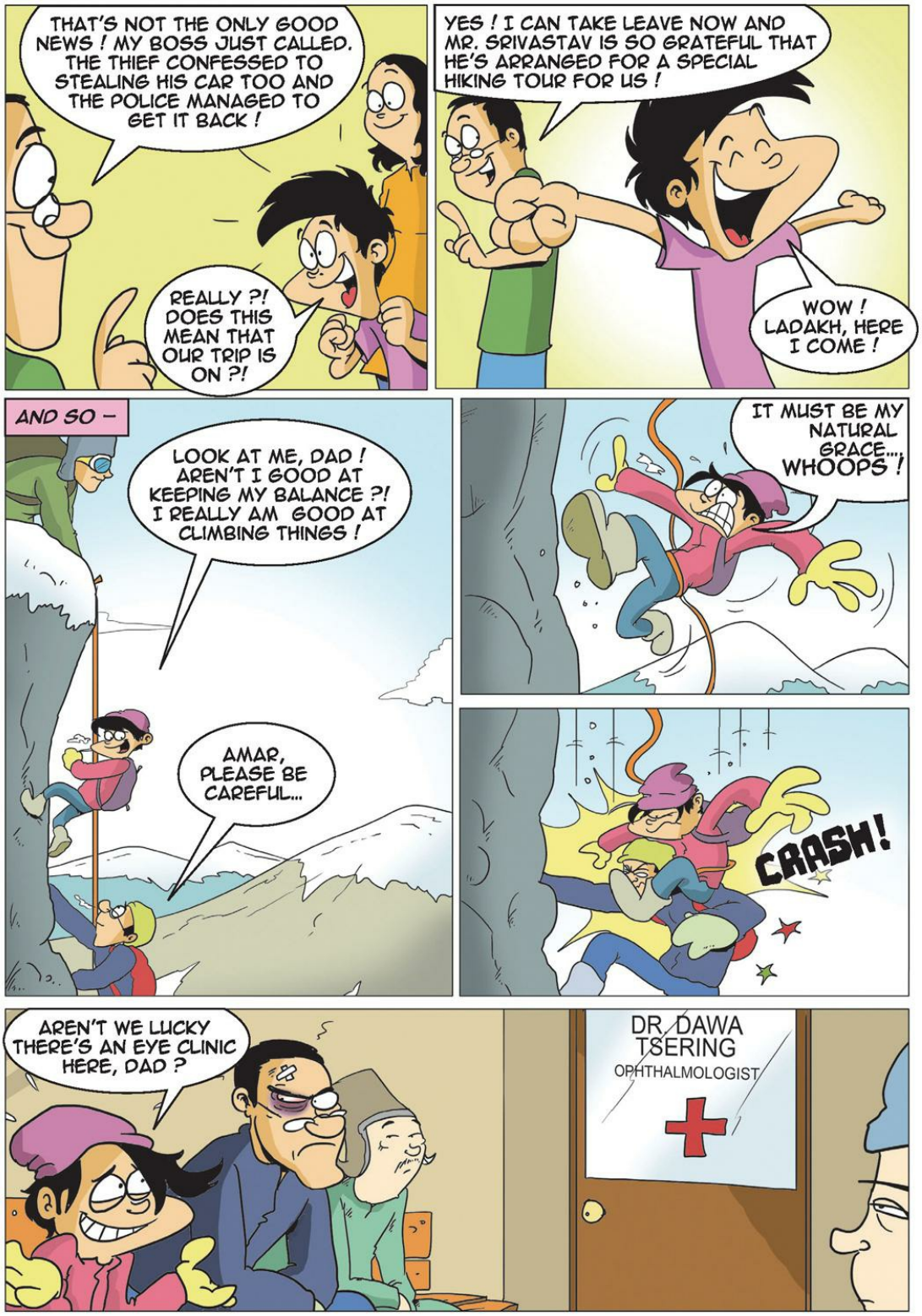
Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: Anomita Guha
Illustrator & Colourist: Abhijeet Kini


NEITHER CAN WE ! YOU'VE TALKED OUR EARS OFF ALL WEEK ABOUT THIS TRIP OF YOURS !
YES, BUTTER ! IF YOU DON'T GO SOON, WE'LL STICK A STAMP ON YOU AND POST YOU TO LADAKH OURSELVES !
BUT THE NEXT MORNING –
MA ! WHERE ARE MY HIKING SHOES ? I'LL NEED THEM FOR OUR TRIP !
THERE MAY NOT BE A TRIP, AMAR ! YOUR DAD'S BOSS, MR. SRIVASTAV, IS THREATENING TO CANCEL HIS LEAVE !
WHAT ?! WHY ?!!
MR. SRIVASTAV'S BELOVED CAR GOT STOLEN THE OTHER DAY...AND HE'S BEEN LIKE A BEAR WITH A SORE HEAD EVER SINCE !
HE SAYS THAT YOUR FATHER WILL HAVE TO FILL IN FOR HIM AT MEETINGS SINCE HE HAS TROUBLE GETTING AROUND WITHOUT HIS CAR !
OH NO !
THIS IS A DISASTER ! MY FRIENDS WILL TEASE ME LIKE CRAZY IF THEY FIND OUT THAT MY TRIP IS CANCELLED !
I KNOW, DEAR, BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOUR FATHER CAN DO ABOUT THIS.
THE NEXT DAY –
I'LL BE USING THE CAR IN THE MORNING. I'VE SCHEDULED AN EYE CHECKUP FOR TODAY.
OH, AMAR WILL GO WITH YOU TO KEEP YOU COMPANY.


I...I WILL ?! BECAUSE I WAS PLANNING TO READ SOME COMICS AND WATCH SOME TV...
OF COURSE YOU WILL !
AT THE EYE CLINIC –
HAS EVERYONE IN THE CITY DECIDED TO GET THEIR EYES CHECKED TODAY ?!
LOOKS THAT WAY, DOESN'T IT ?!
DR. DESHPANDE
AS THE CLOCK SLOWLY TICKED AWAY –
DAD, ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ? BECAUSE IT'S BEEN 20 MINUTES ALREADY AND NO ONE'S CALLED YOUR NAME !
PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, AMAR...
MR. SEN ! THE DOCTOR IS READY TO SEE YOU NOW !
DR. DESH
IT'S ABOUT TIME ! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AGES, YOU KNOW !
DAD'S JUST AS IMPATIENT AS I AM ! I HOPE HE COMES OUT FAST – THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE EXCEPT WAIT AND WAIT AND WAIT !
LUCKILY FOR AMAR –
DAD ! THAT WAS QUICK ! CAN WE LEAVE NOW ?
NO ! THE DOCTOR'S JUST PUT SOME EYE DROPS IN. HE'LL CALL ME IN AGAIN AFTER SOME TIME.

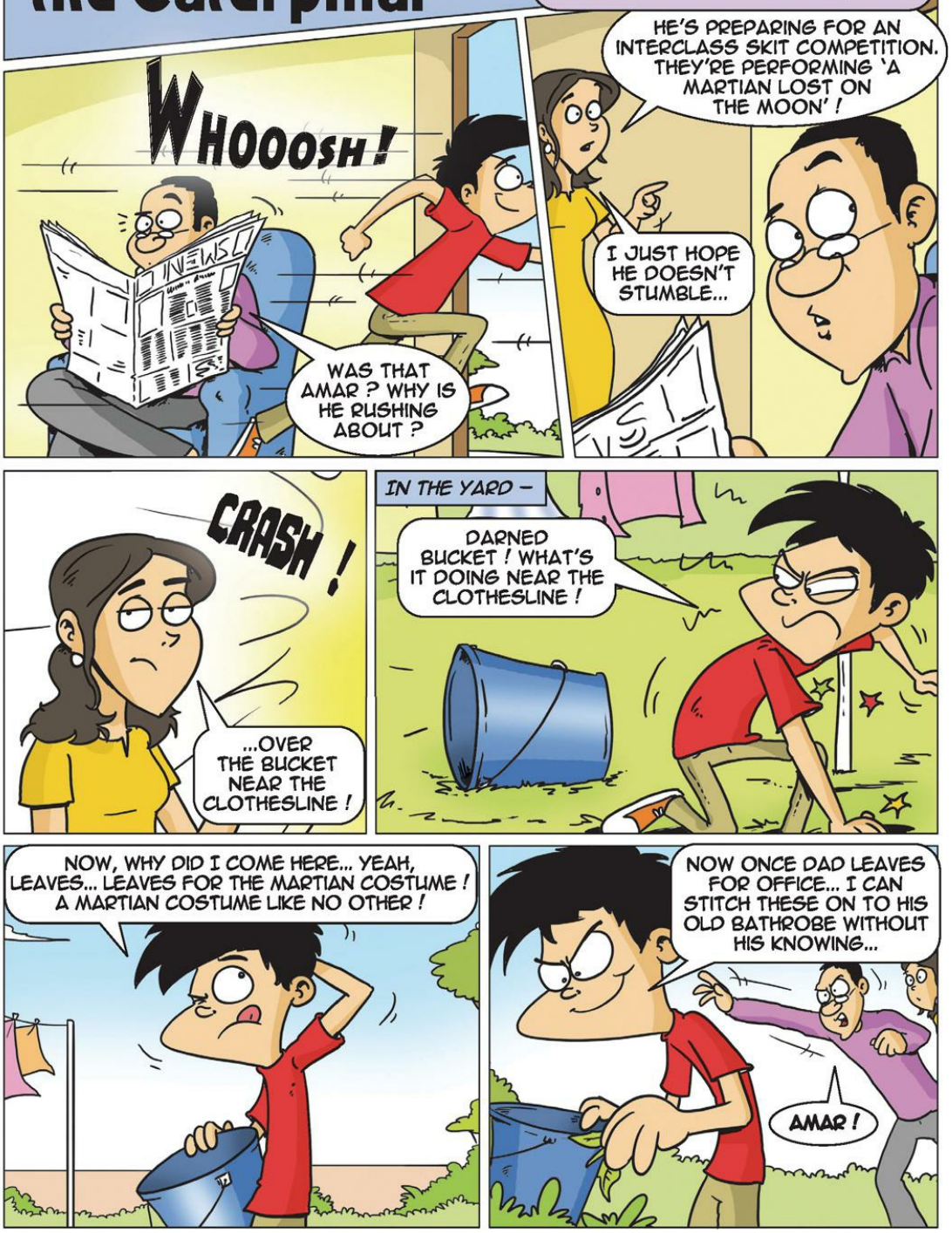
OH NO ! WE'LL BE HERE FOREVER ! EXCAVATORS WILL FIND OUR REMAINS HERE CENTURIES FROM NOW !
STOP BEING SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN ! MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL !
GO GET ME MY CELL PHONE FROM THE CAR – I THINK I LEFT IT ON THE FRONT SEAT.
SURE, DAD ! ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF HERE !
AT THE PARKING LOT –
HMM...SO MANY CARS HERE. THAT ONE WITH THE DENT ON THE SIDE LOOKS JUST LIKE OURS...
HOW FUNNY ! THERE'S A LITTLE TOY MONKEY HANGING FROM THE REARVIEW MIRROR JUST LIKE IN OUR CAR....
WAIT A MINUTE.... THAT IS OUR CAR !
STOP HIM ! STOP HIM ! HE'S STEALING MY DAD'S CAR !
!!!

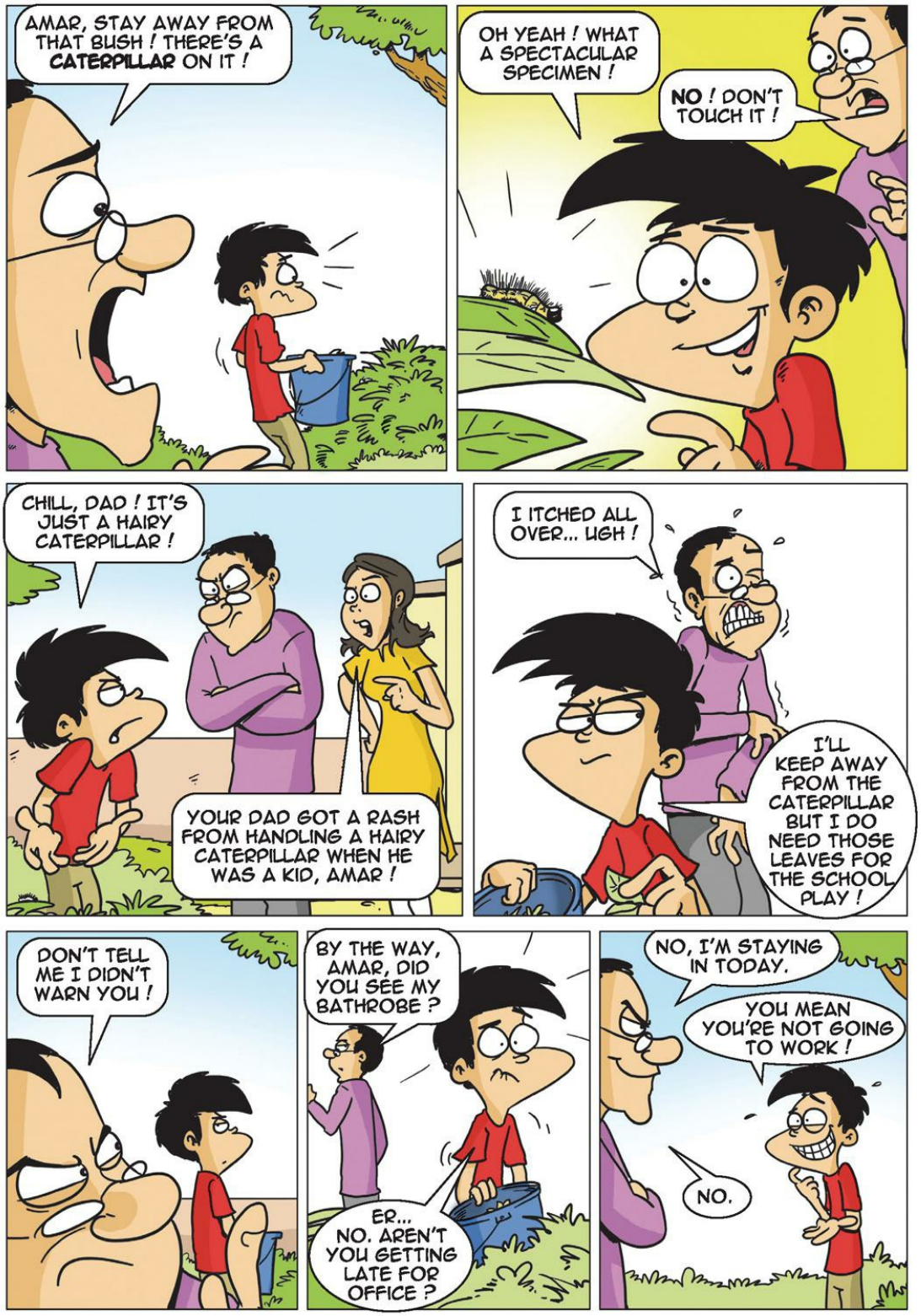
AS THE WATCHMAN QUICKLY SHUT THE GATES...
HE'S GETTING OUT OF THE CAR !
STOP ! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE !
WHOOPS ! LOT OF SLUSH HERE !
YOWZA !
!!!
CRASH!
GET OFF ME !
NO !
GOOD JOB, KID ! I CALLED THE POLICE – THEY'LL BE HERE SOON !
LATER THAT DAY –
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAUGHT A CAR THIEF TODAY ! MY SON – THE HERO !
AW, DAD...IT WAS NOTHING !


THAT'S NOT THE ONLY GOOD NEWS ! MY BOSS JUST CALLED. THE THIEF CONFESSED TO STEALING HIS CAR TOO AND THE POLICE MANAGED TO GET IT BACK !
REALLY ?! DOES THIS MEAN THAT OUR TRIP IS ON ?!
YES ! I CAN TAKE LEAVE NOW AND MR. SRIVASTAV IS SO GRATEFUL THAT HE'S ARRANGED FOR A SPECIAL HIKING TOUR FOR US !
WOW ! LADAKH, HERE I COME !
AND SO –
LOOK AT ME, DAD ! AREN'T I GOOD AT KEEPING MY BALANCE ?! I REALLY AM GOOD AT CLIMBING THINGS !
AMAR, PLEASE BE CAREFUL...
IT MUST BE MY NATURAL GRACE..., WHOOPS !
CRASH!
AREN'T WE LUCKY THERE'S AN EYE CLINIC HERE, DAD ?
DR. DAWA TSERING
OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Butterfingers and the Caterpillar

Story: Khyrunnisa A.
Script: Rajani Thindiath
Illustrator and Colourist: Abhijeet Kini




AMAR, STAY AWAY FROM THAT BUSH ! THERE'S A CATERPILLAR ON IT !
OH YEAH ! WHAT A SPECTACULAR SPECIMEN !
NO ! DON'T TOUCH IT !
CHILL, DAD ! IT'S JUST A HAIRY CATERPILLAR !
YOUR DAD GOT A RASH FROM HANDLING A HAIRY CATERPILLAR WHEN HE WAS A KID, AMAR !
I ITCHED ALL OVER... UGH !
I'LL KEEP AWAY FROM THE CATERPILLAR BUT I DO NEED THOSE LEAVES FOR THE SCHOOL PLAY !
DON'T TELL ME I DIDN'T WARN YOU !
BY THE WAY, AMAR, DID YOU SEE MY BATHROBE ?
ER... NO. AREN'T YOU GETTING LATE FOR OFFICE ?
NO, I'M STAYING IN TODAY.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WORK !
NO.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, AMAR ! SO YOU CAN JUST FORGET WHATEVER MISCHIEF YOU HAVE BEEN PLOTTING !
IF HE'S NOT LEAVING THE HOUSE I WON'T BE ABLE TO STITCH THE LEAVES ONTO THE BATHROBE !
I'LL SMUGGLE IT TO KIRAN'S HOUSE AND DO THE STITCHING THERE !
LATER, AT KIRAN'S HOUSE –
I'M NOT CONVINCED BY YOUR COSTUME, BUTTER ! YOU'RE THE MOST UNMARTIAN MARTIAN I'VE SEEN !
YEAH RIGHT, LIKE YOU'VE SEEN ANY REAL MARTIANS !
CLASS IX PRESENTS MARTIAN LOST ON THE MOON
BUT A MARTIAN WITH A CLOAK FULL OF LEAVES ?!!
THEY'VE FOUND WATER ON MARS, HAVEN'T THEY ? IF THERE'S WATER THERE, WHY NOT TREES... AND LEAVES ?
I HOPE AT LEAST THE MASK WILL MAKE YOU LOOK MORE MARTIAN !
I HOPE IT'S READY ON TIME OR THE AUDIENCE IS SURE TO BOO US OUT OF THE STAGE TOMORROW !
AND OUR PLAY WILL BE RENAMED 'A MARTIAN LOST IN THE BATHROOM' !
HAHAHAHAHA !
VERY FUNNY !

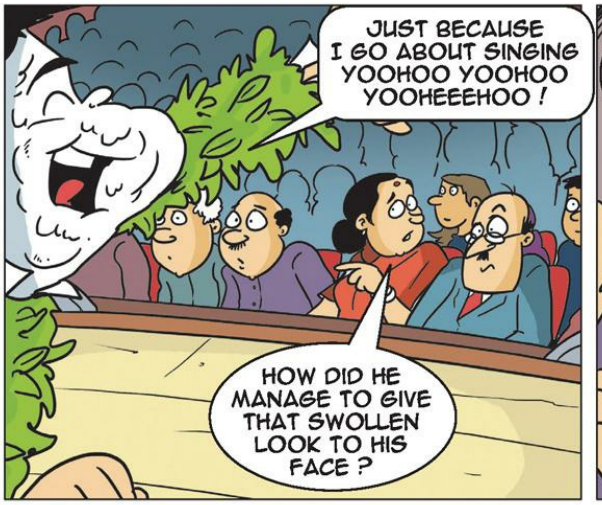
THE NEXT MORNING –
WHATEVER KIRAN MIGHT SAY I'M HAPPY WITH THE COSTUME AND I'M SURE THE AUDIENCE WILL LIKE IT TOO !
NOW, I'LL HAVE A QUICK BATH AND GET READY...
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M GOING TO BE A HIT AS A MARTIAN !
OH, MY TOWEL !
HERE IT IS !
BUTTER HAS A QUICK BATH...

...AND WIPES HIMSELF. BUT AS HE'S WIPING HIS FACE –
SOMETHING'S GOT INTO MY EYE !
WHAT'S THIS ! IT'S THE REMAINS OF A CATERPILLAR !
MUM ! DAD ! I'VE RUBBED A CATERPILLAR INTO MY EYE !
DON'T SCRATCH YOUR FACE, AMAR !
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THAT BUSH ! GOD KNOWS HOW MANY CATERPILLARS ARE ROAMING AROUND IN IT ! I'M GETTING THE ENTIRE GARDEN SPRAYED WITH PESTICIDE !
OOOH ! AAAAH !
GET ME SOME CELLOPHANE TAPE. WE'LL USE IT TO STRIP OFF THE CATERPILLAR HAIR FROM HIS FACE !

Slick !
Slick !
Slick !
OW-OW-OW !
NOW WASH YOUR FACE THOROUGHLY WITH SOAP AND APPLY ICE TO IT !
ALSO APPLY A PASTE OF BAKING SODA WITH WATER ! I REMEMBER IT HELPED ME !
SOMETIME LATER –
HEY BUTTER... EEK !
AAARGH !
CUT IT OUT, GUYS ! IT'S ME ! I GOT STUNG BY A CATERPILLAR THAT WAS ON THIS ROBE !
AND YOU STILL WANT TO WEAR IT ?!
DON'T WORRY, I CHECKED IT THOROUGHLY. BUT WE HAVE A PROBLEM. WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO THE MASK TO FIT IT OVER MY SWOLLEN FACE !
WE HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM. WE JUST HEARD MASKS ARE BEING ALLOWED ONLY FOR MIMES AND NOT SKITS !
OH NO ! THERE GOES OUR SKIT ! FIRST THE CATERPILLAR, NOW THIS ! IT CAN'T GET WORSE !

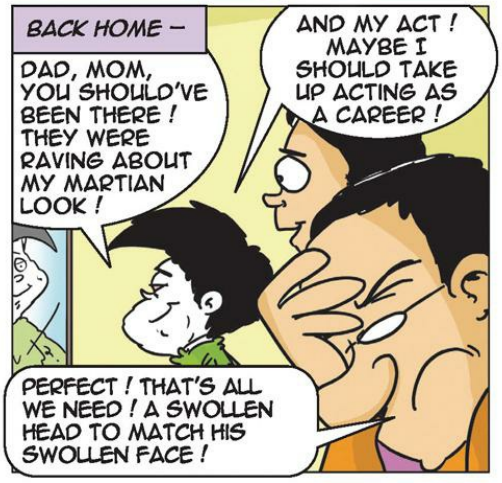
ACTUALLY, THAT CATERPILLAR WAS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE !
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY GETTING STUNG NEXT TIME !
LISTEN, YOU NUT !

LATER, ON STAGE –
I'M A MARTIAN LOST ON THE MOOOON ! BUT I LIKE IT HERE 'COZ BACK HOME THEY THINK I'M A LOOOON !
A MARTIAN LOST ON THE MOON


JUST BECAUSE I GO ABOUT SINGING YOOHOO YOOHOO YOOHEEEHOO !
HOW DID HE MANAGE TO GIVE THAT SWOLLEN LOOK TO HIS FACE ?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE AUDIENCE SEEMS TO LOVE IT !
Clap!
Clap!
Clap!

I'M SURE THERE ARE NO DOUBTS AS TO WHICH CLASS DESERVES THE FIRST PRIZE ! IT IS... IX A !
YOOHOO !


BACK HOME –
DAD, MOM, YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE ! THEY WERE RAVING ABOUT MY MARTIAN LOOK !
AND MY ACT ! MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE UP ACTING AS A CAREER !
PERFECT ! THAT'S ALL WE NEED ! A SWOLLEN HEAD TO MATCH HIS SWOLLEN FACE !

BUTTERFINGERS 2

GOES BONKERS

Have you met the clumsiest boy in the world? Meet Amar Sen, better known as Butterfingers! No person, place, animal or thing is safe when Butterfingers is around. He is so accident-prone that even when he just walks across the room he can cause utter destruction according to writer Khyrunnisa A. and illustrator Abhijeet Kini!

This Collection gives you a peek into the life of Butterfingers and the people affected or saved by his bungling.

Watch—from a safe distance, of course—as Butterfingers stumbles through life and sometimes unknowingly saves the day. This book holds a record of some of Butter's klutziest heroics! For example even while falling off a horse and tripping into a puddle, he prevents disasters! Can one take part in the inter-class skit competition with a face swollen from caterpillar bites? Butterfingers will show you how!

Did you know: Butter usually has his gang of friends to help him cause mayhem. They are Eric, Kiran, Ajay and Minu.

Don't forget to read more of Amar's klutzy antics in 'Ooops... It's Butterfingers'.

Also, read other titles in the *Tinkle* Collections series.